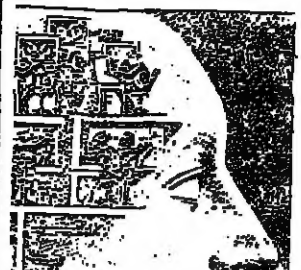


THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow
The Human village
Journey through
the corridors
of power:
the brain



Capital gains
Who owns London?
Investigating the
growth of foreign
investment

Strange yarns
Suzy Menkes on
a boom in
new knitting
textiles

Portfolio
The Times weekly Portfolio
competition was shared by two
winners who each receive
£20,000 because there was no
winner the previous week. They
are: Mr John Snell of Staines,
Middlesex, and Mr John
Lepper of Bridlington, North
Humberside.
The daily prize was also shared
and Mr Norman Chambers of
Rusley, Derbyshire, and Mr
Leslie Bowler of Uppingham,
Leicestershire, receive £2,000
each because there was no
winner on Friday.
Portfolio list, page 12: rules
and how to play. Information
Service, back page.

**Lebanon's
pledge
on troops**
The Lebanese Army, having
successfully deployed south-
ward to the Kharrub region,
will move north from Beirut to
the north of Tripoli in a few days.
This pledge was given by Mr
Rashid Karami, the Lebanese
Prime Minister.
Troops go south, page 5

Princess leaves
Princess Margaret, who was
discharged from Brompton
Hospital last night and driven
to her home at Kensington
Palace.

Zia's election
President Zia ul-Haq of Pakis-
tan, announcing elections for
the end of February, said all
political parties, public meet-
ings and leading opposition
politicians would be banned.
Page 4

Hart holds fire
Senator Gary Hart, who failed
to win the Democratic nomi-
nation in the 1984 US presi-
dential primaries, said in London
yesterday he was undecided
about running again.
Geoffrey Smith, page 5

Foster's haul
England, with Foster taking six
for 104, dismissed India for 272
on the first day of the fourth
Test in Madras.
Page 15

Leader page 9
Letters: On sterling, from Mr A.
Cawgill, and Mr A. Montague
Brown; right of appeal, from
Professor G. Zelikoff and others.
Leading articles: BBC: White
House changes.
Features: pages 6-8
Israel's army of occupation
under attack: student loans, the
issue that won't go away: US
presures: stay healthy by
knowing your body. Monday
Page: more news than donnas
Obituary: page 10
Professor Carl Hanson. E. H.
Leavis.
Classified, pages 19-21
List of the 1985 university
appointments

27 killed in train fire
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Castro assurance, page 5

**NUM rebel area
leader may quit**
By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter
The crisis in the National
Union of Mineworkers deep-
ened yesterday as Mr Ray
Chadburn, president of the
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area, declared that his position
was becoming "untenable".
Leaders of the region's 30,000
pitmen have already suspended
their general secretary, Mr
Henry Richardson, and now
face the prospect of a walkout
by Mr Chadburn.
The area is set to be expelled
from the NUM by a special
delegate conference on January
29 after a decision to put itself
beyond the national disciplinary
procedures contained in the
controversial rule 51.
In a BBC Radio interview
yesterday Mr Chadburn said:
"My position is becoming
untenable a president because at
the end of the day no one wants
to listen to what I have to say,
no one wants to listen to my
interpretation of the rule book
and everybody wants to act
constitutionally when it suits
them, but not constitutionally
when it doesn't suit them".
In the same programme, Mr
Ray Lyng, the area's anti-strike
financial secretary, said he was
not trying to set up a separate
national union with himself at
its head, but he confirmed that
he had been approached by
miners in other parts of Britain.
Meanwhile Mr Ian MacGregor,
the coal board chairman,
returned from the United States
yesterday and it was felt that
there would be increased pres-
sure on the board to meet the
union now that the NUM's
negotiating team has been
enlarged to include the whole
executive. Hitherto only Mr
Arthur Scargill, president, Mr
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Continued on back page, col 1

Thatcher prepared for another interest rate rise

By Sarah Hogg and David Smith

A critical week for sterling will begin with nervous trading on the foreign exchanges, as dealers seek confirmation that the Government is now prepared to see a further rise in interest rates to steady the markets.

Price figures due to be released this afternoon are expected to show that sterling's decline had already boosted raw material costs sharply by December, threatening higher inflation this year.

The Chancellor concluded his weekend discussions on the Budget with his Treasury team at Chevening, in Kent, against a background of anxiety about the pound, which had fallen to \$1.185 in New York on Friday evening, and was reckoned by dealers to have been "saved by the weekend".

Mr Lawson faces a parliamentary debate on the economy tomorrow, and flies to Washington for meetings with other finance ministers this week, at which exchange rates are now bound to top the agenda.

The Government is prepared to see interest rates rise by 1 per cent or more this week to stem the pound's sharp slide. Any rise in bank base rates will, however, be seen in terms of the Government re-establishing its grip on the money supply, and not as an all-or-nothing move to keep the pound from falling to parity with the American dollar.

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor were enraged by conflicting Sunday newspaper reports of the Government's attitude to the exchange rate. The Treasury view on the cause of the pound's sharp slide shifted towards the end of last week. Previously, the pound's fall had been attributed to the strength of the dollar and the weakness of world oil prices,

neither of which the Government could influence. The new factor, which the Treasury now recognizes, is genuine market concern that the Government's monetary policy has become too slack and that this explains much of the pound's latest plunge.

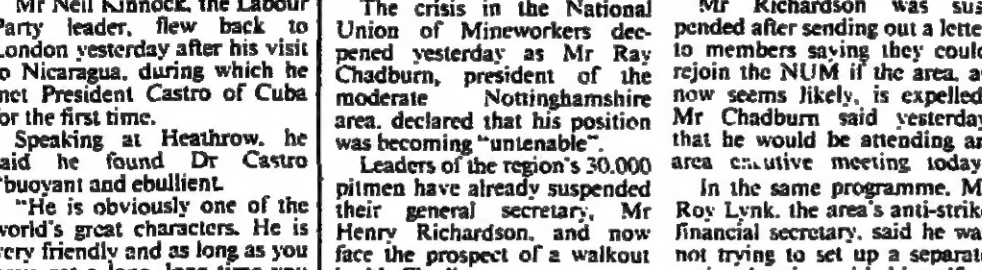
The Government had been insisting that domestic monetary conditions were satisfactory and that this was underlined by last Tuesday's announcement of a 0.5 per cent fall in the sterling M3 measure of money supply in December. Now, it is officially recognized that the monetary picture is clouded by the effects of the British Telecom flotation, and that the markets could be right in their concern over the Government's grip on the money supply.

It is also recognized that the Government's "hands-off" policy on the exchange rate, which foreign exchange dealers had come to interpret as "malign neglect", had contributed to the pound's fall.

Last night, Whitehall officials were stressing that the Government is concerned about the pound's international level and that it is, and always has been, one of a number of indicators taken into account when assessing monetary policy.

The Treasury has not shifted to any policy of attempting to

Continued on back page, col 1



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main was used for carrying gas
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reach the crack which was
situated near the Criterion
Theatre, at the south side of
Piccadilly Circus. Engineers
later succeeded in capping the
main and firemen and engi-
neers were expected to work
overnight in an attempt to
maintain some service on the
Underground network.
The leak comes only three
days after a gas explosion
killed eight people and de-
stroyed part of a block of flats
in Putney, south-west London.
Underground services in Cen-
tral London had only just
returned to normal.
The divisional fire officer,
Mr Gary Hall, said: "The
actions of passers by in alerting
the authorities could have
averted what was potentially an
even worse disaster than
Putney. One of the few good
things that came out of the
Putney explosion is that people
are now aware of the dangers of
gas".
A team of forensic sci-
entists, civil engineers and gas
board officials spent the week-
end combing the debris of the
maison block in Putney Hill
where the eight people died on
Thursday. An interim report is
expected to be ready within the
next three days.
He said he was leaving South
Continued on back page, col 1

**US dismayed by
Soviet warning
over Star Wars**
From Christopher Thomas, Washington
The United States was taken
aback last night by an extra-
ordinarily gloomy and blunt
warning by Mr Andrei Gromyko,
the Soviet Foreign Minister,
about the chances for
progress in the forthcoming
arms talks if America persists
with its "aggressive" research
programme on the development
of space weapons.
Mr Gromyko insisted that
the Soviet Union would "fight to
the end" to prevent the
militarization of space and that
without progress towards that
it would be superfluous to
negotiate on strategic nuclear
weapons.
He hinted strongly that the
Soviet Union would walk out of
the talks, which are expected to
begin in March, if the US
continued the deployment of
Pershing 2 and cruise missiles
in Europe. "The Soviet Union
warned the United States that
if it continues to deploy
medium-range nuclear missiles
in Western Europe after the
new arms talks begin, the
negotiations will become
strained and greatly strained",
he said on Soviet television.
He added later that con-
tinued deployment would bring
the negotiations "into ques-
tion". He said repeatedly that
the US should give up its "Star
Wars" space-weapons pro-
gramme, officially known as
the Strategic Defence Initiative.
He rejected the Administra-
tion's insistence that the
system was purely defensive,
against incoming nuclear mis-
siles. "There is nothing defensive
here; these weapons are
offensive and the whole plan,
frankly speaking, is an aggressive
plan".
He suggested that the US
wanted the Soviet Union to rely
on the conscience of Washing-
ton that the SDI would be only
defensive.
Mr Caspar Weinberger, the
US Defence Secretary, was
being interviewed on American
television when news of Mr
Gromyko's remarks came
through. He seemed shocked.
He rejected a claim by Mr
Gromyko that the American
side in arms talks last Monday
and Tuesday in Geneva had
agreed that agreement on
strategic arms or intermediate-
range nuclear arms would be
impossible without agreement
on outer space weapons.
"I had to disagree with Mr
Gromyko before the talks start,
but that clearly was not our
position", Mr Weinberger said.
He firmly ruled out any
possibility of giving up the SDI
if current research proved that
it was feasible to deploy
futuristic defence weapons in
space, although there would be
"certain things" to talk about.
He also ruled out any
possibility that the United
States would suspend the
testing of more conventional
anti-satellite devices, which is
to resume in March.
The essential difference
between the superpowers is
over the extent of "linkage"
between the three areas to be
negotiated in the coming talks
- strategic nuclear arms,
intermediate-range nuclear
weapons and the prevention of
an arms race in space.
Mr George Shultz, the
Secretary of State, who headed
the American delegation in the
Geneva talks last week, was
highly cautious in a television
interview, but confirmed that
the Administration would
shortly publish a list of alleged
Soviet violations of previous
arms treaties. He did not think
Mr Gromyko's remarks spell
doom for the new negotiations.
"It remains to be seen what
will happen if we agree on
something in one area, but not
in some other areas. It may or
may not go forward".
He ruled out any chance of
stopping the deployment of
missiles in Western Europe
unless an agreement was
reached with the Soviet Union
"that arranges it in some other
way".
European notebook, page 5

**Cold spell set to last
for most of week**
Motorists were given a
warning to beware of treacher-
ous conditions on the way to
work today as the cold snap
looks set to last most of
the week.
More snow, ice and freezing
fog are forecast for much of the
country and yesterday's snow,
which has a chance to settle on
normally busy roads, could be a
danger.
An RAC spokesman said last
night: "If today's snow settles
and freezes, fresh overnight
snowfalls could make the going
very treacherous tomorrow
morning. We would urge all
motorists to remain on their
guard. Snow on the road surface
is like the tip of an iceberg; it
can conceal the real dangers
beneath the surface".
Speed restrictions were in
force on many roads after snow
fell in the South-east, Midlands
and north of England, and in
parts of the South-west and
Scotland. Temperatures rarely
climbed above freezing. Falls
were particularly heavy in the
North-east and in west Wales
only major roads were passable.
A snow storm forced the
Prince and Princess of Wales to
drive the quarter of a mile to
church in their car at Sandring-
ham yesterday. A journey they
normally make on foot. But the
Duke of Edinburgh and Prince
Edward walked through the
deepening snow with one of
their guests, Prince Ludwig von
Baden.
European misery, page 5
Weather reports, back page

**Gas leak closes
Piccadilly**
By Patricia Clough
Piccadilly Circus in London
was evacuated last night and
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Airlines offer to pay Laker and creditors £50m to drop suit

By Colin Hughes

Sir Freddie Laker and his creditors have been offered just under £50 million to settle out of court in the United States law suit which is forcing the Government to postpone privatization of British Airways.

Mr Christopher Morris, the liquidator of Laker Airways, has brought the law suit for £890 million damages against British Airways and 11 other airline companies, claiming that they conspired to drive Laker out of business.

Until the suit is settled, the Government believes it will be impossible to draw up a prospectus to float BA, which would be liable for part of the damages. British Airways has therefore persuaded its co-defendants in the case, who includes Pan-Am, TWA, Lufthansa, British Canadian and Swissair, to offer the £50 million to settle now.

Lawyers representing the 12 defendants in the negotiations, which were continuing at a hotel in Miami, Florida, yesterday, suggested that was a "take it or leave it" offer.

Under the proposed settlement the small creditors, owed up to £30,000 would be paid in full. That would include former Laker employees and ticket-holders stranded by the airline's collapse two years ago. Other

main creditors would get £50,000 plus 20 per cent of the remainder. Sir Freddie would personally receive between £2 million and £4 million.

The offer is being made in the hope that most of the 16,000 creditors accept that they are unlikely to be offered any more, and would rather be paid now.

British Airways' lawyers, from the London firm of Linklater and Paine, were confident yesterday that there would be a favourable response to the offer. One source said: "The indications from the creditors are that they are willing to accept the offer."

Sir Freddie, however, is said to be convinced that he has a strong case. That, and the Government's eagerness not to prolong embarrassment over the defunct airline, might mean that he could win more.

His problem is that Mr Morris could choose to settle independently. Although British Airways accept that Sir Freddie could then choose to carry on with the lawsuit on his own behalf, it would be costly for him, and less likely to frustrate liquidation of BA.

The airlines have agreed to split the cost of the settlement between them, with the larger airlines paying more.

Maxwell calls unions to crisis meeting

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

Union leaders at Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) have been called to a crisis meeting today by the publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell. Management denied reports that the company's title *The Sporting Life* will be closed, but Mr Maxwell told employees yesterday that it would face closure without concessions from unions.

Elsewhere in the group, members of the managerial section of the print union Sogat '82 were told at a meeting yesterday that the company would cut 304 administrative jobs by a quarter before the end of March. Most would be those aged 55 and over who would be asked to take early retirement with enhanced pensions. The next step would be an immediate review of production and engineering management. Editors have also been instructed to make "massive" savings.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Maxwell said there was "no question" that *The Sporting Life*, the daily racing paper which counts the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother among its 70,000 devotees, would fold.

Urgent talks would be held with management and work-force in an attempt to reduce the paper's losses of £3 million a year which had become "an unbearable burden".

The publisher contrasted the expected 1985 profits for the group of less than £1 million on a £250 million turnover, with the £32 million profit on a £270 million turnover of its rival, News International.

National leaders of the main print unions and top management at the *Financial Times* were called to talks yesterday in an attempt to solve a dispute which now threatens tomorrow's paper.

Mr Tony Dobbins, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, and Mr Ted O'Brien of Sogat, were asked to attend reconvened meetings at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service in London with Mr Frank Barlow, the paper's chief executive.

Leaders of the 32,000-strong National Union of Journalists are seeking to extend membership to copy writers and photographers and librarians with broadcasting organizations, to increase the union's strength.



Making music: Cellists of the 92-strong London Schools Symphony Orchestra rehearsing yesterday for their first concert of 1985, designated European Music Year. The concert, at the Royal Festival Hall on Sunday, will be conducted by Elgar Howarth and include works by Wagner and Vaughan Williams (Photograph: John Manning).

Britain is ready to join space project

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Britain is prepared to collaborate in a permanent space station planned by the United States, if other members of the European Space Agency join in. The British contribution could be more than £100 million over 10 years.

A decision comes this week when Mrs Margaret Thatcher reviews the financial details with ministers, before Mr Geoffrey Foulkes, the Minister for Information Technology at the Department of Industry, meets other members of the European Space Agency.

This is the first time Britain and her European partners have been invited to join the planning stage of a big US space venture. The offer was made by Mr James Beggs, head of the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration, during a visit to Japan and member countries of the European Space Agency.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Beggs said there had been a return of more than 30 per cent on the \$100 billion spent on the American programme over 25 years.

The benefits were in fields such as communications satellites, solid state electronics, computer development, and new materials.

He said the space agency would start the second phase of its design studies for the space station in April, and he would like participants to come forward by then.

The station would include factories for producing fine chemicals and alloys.

Gems theft at Harrods may be on video

By Stewart Tisdler
Crime Reporter

Police investigating the theft of jewellery worth up to £1 million from a woman shopper at Harrods are checking whether security film in the store recorded the robbery.

Detectives hope today to watch the incident on video cameras sited in various parts of the shop to combat pickpockets, shoplifters or attack. Police fear, however, that because Harrods is so crowded during sales, the cameras may not have picked it up. The jewellery was stolen from an Arab woman as she chatted to her daughter over lunch at the store on Friday.

The items were not insured and vanished with her handbag. A £50,000 reward has been issued through the police by the woman's husband, a Middle Eastern businessman, for the return of the crocodile skin bag containing a diamond bracelet and necklace, two rings, other jewellery and £700 in Japanese Yen.

The woman carried the jewellery with her because she felt that it was not safe to leave it at home.

Water supplies cleared

Water from the River Dee is being phased back into the supplies of two million people in Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales after its quality was tested after a pollution incident.

In a joint statement, North West Water, the Welsh Water Authority and the Chester and Wrexham water companies said: "We are satisfied after full consultation with medical experts that there is no risk to public health." The pollution was caused by old mine workings at Acrefield, Clwyd.

Appeal support withdrawn

The television personality Leslie Crowther yesterday withdrew his support from International Christian Relief, which is purporting to raise money for Ethiopia. The organization has used Mr Crowther's name and photograph in advertisements.

It is estimated to have raised £91,000 in the UK and £1m worldwide, but there have been reports that some of the money has reached Ethiopia. The organization has nothing to do with the charity Christian Aid.

Anna Ford issues libel writ

The former television presenter Anna Ford and her husband Mark Boxer, editor of *The Teller*, have issued a High Court writ claiming libel damages against the weekly magazine *Time Out*.

Their complaint of references to Mr Ford's book *Men and a forthcoming autobiography of Mick Jagger*. *Time Out* has apologized for errors and says it has agreed to pay legal costs.

NF student case in court today

Sixteen students from the Polytechnic of North London face possible prison sentences today for contempt of court, when Mr Patrick Harcourt, the National Front activist and third-year philosophy student at the polytechnic, seeks in the High Court to have them jailed for allegedly flouting a court order that his entry to lectures should not be picketed.

Three die in bed-sits blaze

Three young men died yesterday when fire ripped through a block of bed sitting rooms in Easton, Bristol, yesterday.

Neighbours raised the alarm after hearing the screams of a young man and woman, trapped in an attic room. They and three other people were rescued by firemen.

New kiosks

New telephone boxes will be one of the principal ingredients of a £160m Telecom facility to be disclosed this week. The corporation has experimented with various models to replace the red kiosks, including booths with a canopy for airports and all-glass stand-alone cubicles in shopping centres.

Remand death

Sarah Hewer, aged 21, has been found dead in her cell at Pudding Lane Remand Centre, Bristol, where she was on remand on a shoplifting charge. She is believed to have choked after being sick.

Callaghan better

Mr James Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, is expected to leave St Thomas's Hospital, London, today after an operation to remove his gall bladder.

Cycle thefts

About 240,000 bicycles worth £16.5 million were stolen in 1982, and only 15 per cent were recovered.

Paper folds

The *Glasgow West Post*, a weekly newspaper for the last year, has ceased publication.

Rail stoppage fears for commuters

By Our Labour Reporter

Talks aimed at averting the 24-hour selective rail strike on Thursday are expected to start later today amid fears that some London commuter services may be affected.

The executive of Aslef, the train drivers' union, which together with the leadership of the National Union of Railwaymen, called the strike, will today be pressed to make it a nationwide stoppage, but any widening of the strike was thought unlikely.

The strike, called in protest at alleged management harassment of railmen refusing to work coal trains, is due to affect the London-Edinburgh route and the service from London through Derby and Nottingham to Sheffield. Commuter services

around towns in the Midlands would also be disrupted.

Meetings of drivers will be held today at King's Cross and Waterloo with some activists urging an unofficial stoppage in sympathy with their colleagues at Midlands depots who have been suspended for refusing to operate trains carrying coal in sympathy with striking miners.

The British Rail board said yesterday: "We are hoping to arrange talks with leaders of the two main rail unions early next week to avert the strike."

The board said it had the option of obtaining a High Court injunction ordering union leaders to call off the strike, as there had not been a pre-strike ballot.

Detainee's wife flies to Libya

By Richard Dowden

Mrs Pai Plummer, the wife of one of the four Britons detained in Libya, is flying to Tripoli today to try to see her husband.

Her visit comes after an announcement by Dr Ali Turek, the Libyan Foreign Minister, that the future of the four men will be decided next month at the National Congress.

Mrs Plummer said last night that she simply wanted to see her husband Robin. She expected to be back in Britain by Thursday.

Meanwhile Mr Terry Waite is expected to fly back to London tomorrow and will almost

certainly meet Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to brief him on what initiatives Libya is seeking from Britain. Dr Turek said that he hoped a positive initiative from Libya would be matched by a positive initiative from Britain.

It is understood that the Libyans are seeking a top-level meeting with a British representative to try to resolve a number of commercial and travel problems resulting from the break in diplomatic relations.

It was still not clear last night whether Dr Turek was delaying the decision on the four

Britons until Libyans in Britain come to trial.

On Saturday Mr Waite failed on technical grounds to secure bail for one of the Britons, Mr Malcolm Anderson, who is charged with carrying letters defaming Libya. Mr Anderson, an oil engineer from Newcastle, will appear in court again on February 6.

Meanwhile a man has been held in London since last Monday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in connection with his flight from Britain of Mr Muhammad Shehli, a Libyan on bail on charges of smuggling £4,000 worth of drugs.

Russian takes chess title in 12 moves

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

With a quick draw in 12 moves in the thirteenth and last round of the Hastings International Chess Tournament yesterday the Russian Grandmaster Eugene Sveshnikov made sure of first prize.

Sveshnikov, who was deemed before the event to be the strongest player in the tournament, deserved to win. Final scores were:

Sveshnikov 9, Benko 8, Polgar 7, Gurevich 6, Piatigorsky 5, Gurevich 4, Gurevich 3, Gurevich 2, Gurevich 1, Gurevich 0.

It urges better training for immigration officers and for diplomats in consulates abroad where applicants for entry to Britain are vetted. The report also calls for more staff to be sent to posts in Bangladesh and

Immigration officials 'humiliate' blacks

By Our Race Relations Correspondent

Britain's black population is humiliated and distressed by their treatment by immigration officers at ports of entry, according to a report on immigration practice to be published next month by the Commission for Racial Equality.

The report, which has taken five years to produce, says that black Britons and their visitors are embarrassed by questions asked by immigration officials, and distressed by delays, detentions and deportations.

It urges better training for immigration officers and for diplomats in consulates abroad where applicants for entry to Britain are vetted. The report also calls for more staff to be sent to posts in Bangladesh and

Pakistan, where the longest delays are experienced. The report, proposed in 1979 after the controversy over virginity testing of Asian women arriving at Heathrow, has involved commission staff observing and questioning thousands of officials.

They found that the short, superficial initial training courses for immigration officers left them ill-equipped to assess the people they interviewed. The report says the officials needed better knowledge of the habits and customs of people from other countries.

The report also criticizes Home Office instructions for their emphasis on the possibility of fraud.

Onshore oil wells set to double

By John Young
and David Young

The Government is to publish a set of safeguards this week intended to protect the countryside from onshore oil developments. The purpose is not to discourage exploration, but to reassure residents that the oil companies will not be given carte blanche to do as they please.

Despite protests from environmentalists oil companies drilled a record 45 wells onshore in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland during 1984 and are set to more than double that figure in 1985. Last year the Government indicated that what was held to be the national interest in exploiting energy sources should take precedence over environmental objections.

A large area of southern England, from Kent to Dorset, is thought to contain economically recoverable reserves, and some experts believe that there could be an oilfield comparable in size to those of North America.

Exploration licences have so far been granted to 84 companies, covering an area of more than 13,000 square miles, mostly in southern England but also in the East Midlands and Scotland.

The Government's indication of energy exploitation having priority over environmental considerations was given in a consultative document. That was seen as an answer to East Sussex County Council which had stated in its structure plan that it would not condone development in areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The implication that the Government would over-rule planning refusals by county councils, which have jurisdiction over mineral exploration, has rung alarm bells among the residents of an overwhelmingly Conservative region. Later this month a public inquiry will be held into Surrey County Council's rejection of an application to drill near the village of Normandy.

According to figures issued by Petroleum Information Limited 37 new wells were drilled in England in 1984, four in Scotland and four in Ireland.

Petroleum Information says that oil companies are budgeting to start more than a hundred wells during 1985.

Clash over secret papers

By Pat Healy

Discord over the British Government's willingness to cooperate with the Australian Royal Commission investigating the safety of Britain's nuclear tests in the 1950s intensified at the weekend with allegations that vital documents were still being withheld, and a demand from a Labour MP that the continued classification of some records should be dropped.

The commission has been hearing evidence in London for two weeks. So far 250 previously classified documents have been made available to it and to lawyers representing veterans and the aborigines who claim to have been affected by the tests.

A further one hundred "bulky" documents were made available for inspection by the Ministry of Defence over the weekend, Mr Peter McClellan, the barrister assisting the commission, is to visit Aldermaston today for discussions on what further information may be made public under the 30-year rule on Cabinet papers.

Mr Robin Auld, QC, the barrister representing the British Government before the commission, said last week that he needed to take advice on certain documents which were "weapon design sensitive".

But Mr Gavin Strang, Labour MP for Edinburgh East, says today that it is hard to believe that there is any real security justification for refusing to make available all the information from government records on the conduct of nuclear tests in the 1950s.

In a letter to Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Mr Strang urges the Government to look again at the arrangements for providing information to the commission.

Mr Strang also questions the British Government's decision to insist that the Australian Government should waive its right to prosecute people committing perjury as a condition for allowing the commission to sit in Britain. Mr Butler did not refer to that condition in the Commons debate and Mr Strang asks why it was thought necessary.

Mr Strang also urges the Government to set up its own "Royal Commission" to investigate.

Mr Auld told the commission last week that although the Australian Government had waived its right to prosecute, the hearings were still covered by British law on perjured evidence.

Healey joins call for VE-day celebration

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Labour Party yesterday joined in criticism by the Social Democrats of the Government for its unwillingness to arrange any official event to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of this year of the ending of the war in Europe on May 8 1945.

Mr Denis Healey, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said he was amazed and shocked. The war was a fight against Nazism, which the German people opposed, and he believed they would themselves be celebrating the victory.

"For us not to celebrate it when so many people died to achieve that victory seems extraordinary", Mr Healey said on BBC radio yesterday.

Farmland prices fall

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Although tomorrow's annual White Paper is expected to show that last year's rise in farm incomes well exceeded the rate of inflation, farmland prices have declined sharply in the last six months, and are now at their lowest for nearly two years.

Last June the average price reached a peak of £4,935 a hectare (£1,997 an acre). By November it had fallen by nearly a quarter to £3,795 a

hectare (£1,539 an acre) and the slide is continuing. In real terms its price is 12 per cent lower than in 1950.

Several factors have contributed to the apparent paradox, of which the most important is the general acceptance that the EEC will have to take steps this year to curb the grain surplus, either by a reduction in price support, or by introducing quotas, or possibly both.

Other criticisms made by the group are, first, that the Society's link with the solicitors' insurance indemnity scheme could create a conflict of interest if it is also to penalize solicitors for negligent work.

Secondly, there may be confusion caused by the overlap between poor professional work, which is disciplined by the Law Society council, and poor legal aid work, complaints about which go to the disciplinary tribunal.

Where bad professional work is considered by the Law Society to be negligent, clients will still be obliged to sue through the courts, it argues. That gives the Society freedom not to act if it so wishes, and may confuse clients who will not understand the difference between misconduct, negligence, or bad professional work.

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Letters, page 9

First efficiency chief

Whitehall faces new management whip

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

In a fortnight's time Mrs Valerie Strachan, one of the Civil Service's most senior women, takes on the job of ensuring that the Whitehall machine runs cheaply and efficiently according to best business principles.

Mrs Strachan, who is aged 45, has been appointed the first head of the Joint Management Unit. This is a specialist group working under the aegis of the Treasury and the Cabinet Office to persuade (and where necessary whip) government departments into line with the new managerial ethos.

The ethos - that is supposed to be spreading through Whitehall under the Financial Management Initiative - owes a lot to another doctory woman, the minister ultimately responsible for the Civil Service, Mrs



Mrs Strachan: "working for a common goal"

Margaret Thatcher. And, interestingly, Mrs Strachan joins at the Cabinet Office one of the

very few women to reach the heights of permanent secretaryship, Mrs Barbara Sloman.

But Mrs Strachan was until recently the official responsible for the collection of value-added tax (VAT).

As a commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mrs Strachan, who has worked with the excise since 1961, managed some 11,000 staff in a network of local VAT offices said she had encountered "slight" prejudice from men during her rise through the ranks, but "for everyone slightly prejudiced against you as a woman there was someone extremely keen to give you the chance".

Born in the South-east but educated in Hull and at Manchester University, Mrs Strachan is cut from different

THE APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES

Justices of the Peace in England and Wales are appointed by the Lord Chancellor. Appointments are made on the recommendation of local Advisory Committees.

The Committees welcome nominations of persons in all walks of life who are thought to have the qualities and time to serve as a Justice of the Peace. Any person or body may recommend a candidate for appointment.

Candidates must be below the age of 60 years but preference is normally given to those under 50. Recommendation forms and information on the selection process and what is involved in being a Justice of the Peace are available from the Secretary of the local Advisory Committee. His name and address are obtainable from the office of the local Clerk to the Justices.

"Except in the counties of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside where they are appointed by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster."

Issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department, London

Ministers may replace vehicle excise duty with more tax on petrol

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Treasury ministers are understood to be seriously considering announcing the abolition of vehicle excise duty in the next Budget and replacing it with a further tax on petrol - probably about 30p.

The move was last seriously considered by the Labour Government in 1979, and a provisional decision to make the change was reversed by the incoming Conservative Government. It was then widely believed that the change would tend to help typical Labour voters, those living in towns or low incomes who did small mileages, and to disadvantage the typical Conservative voter living in the country or the suburbs.

A new briefing paper sent to senior ministers, including Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, counters many of the conventional objections to the proposed change and argues that one overwhelming reason for abolition of the 194 car tax is the magnitude of the problems of enforcing payment of the duty.

The paper is the work of Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North, who is a member of the Commons home affairs select committee and an officer of his party's back-bench committee. Mr Wheeler, who takes a special interest in the criminal justice system, says that the excise duty is a wasteful and

Department of Transport enforcement work				
Year	Enforcement work	Enforcement work	Enforcement work	Enforcement work
1978	824	387	148	4.2
1979	917	323	172	5.6
1980	1,022	288	210	7.2
1981	1,170	273	189	9.4
1982	1,257	259	185	9.4
1983	1,785	303	253	14.6

bureaucratic method of collecting tax, and that evasion is on a massive scale, with an estimated 9 per cent of cars, or about two million, evading payment of up to £175 million a year. Since petrol duty is levied for the same purpose on the same people, the result is a duplication of effort.

He puts the loss of revenue in 1982-83 at 17.5 per cent of the total due. Fines, penalties and arrears collected in 1983 led to recovery of about £14.6 million gross. But the cost of staff employed by the Department of Transport in its offices in Swansea and elsewhere was £6 million. Allowance for the costs of the police, traffic wardens and courts meant there might well be little or no gain for the Treasury from the enforcement operations.

Seventy per cent of reported cases were dropped because of lack of resources to deal with them. It was obvious that we had a system that could not be properly enforced, he says.

Mr Wheeler also believes that

accepted political or "class" arguments over which motorists would be hardest hit by the change are mistaken; that the widespread view that rural motorists and those on lower incomes would be worse off is not borne out by the facts.

The factor which decides how much mileage a car owner does is far more likely to depend on income than location, he argues. Government figures show that mileage in rural areas is higher overall by 9 per cent than in towns, but lower petrol consumption is likely to give the country dweller a net relative advantage.

The most powerful argument for retaining car tax was the registration system itself, and the value of the centralized computer system to the police and the motor trade. Mr Wheeler's paper states. But the system was not working: if 9 per cent of cars were evading duty, he thought it likely that they were also evading annual "MoT" tests and insurance.

Mr Wheeler suggests that a requirement to display an MoT and insurance disc, instead of a tax disc, would be less open to abuse.

Treasury sources, while making no comment yesterday on the likelihood of vehicle duty being abolished, confirmed that there would be no administrative difficulty in repaying motorists for the unexpired period of their licences.

School



Two's company: Robert Leadbeater, the only pupil at Kilberry school, Argyll, with Miss Jean Aitken, his teacher (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

Solitary pleasures of school

By Colin Hughes

Robert Leadbeater, aged seven, is Britain's loneliest schoolboy. Not that he is bullied or ostracized by his schoolmates: he simply has no one to play with.

His life as the only pupil at the 113-year-old Kilberry primary school in the moorland of Argyll has its compensations. Strathclyde region's policy of buying a computer for all its schools, for example, means that he has a £600 micro to himself.

He enjoys the best possible pupil-teacher ratio, one to one. Miss Jean Aitken, who has been teacher for nine years, gives him undivided attention.

He has a personal cook: Mrs Margaret Mackinnon comes in part-time to prepare his lunches.

Education officials have recommended closing Kilberry, even though its register will double next term with the arrival of Mrs Mackinnon's daughter. Councillors seeking views on the shutdown are

unlikely to find overwhelming objections: Kilberry's catchment area of several miles is mostly unpopulated.

Mr John Leadbeater, the boy's father, bought Kilberry post office four years ago. He had moved from Bradford after twice suffering redundancy. Now he is worried about the 15-mile daily journey his son will have to make to the nearest alternative school, at Tarbert.

He said: "At least, though, he will have other children to play with."

'Star Wars' laser may be used to fight cancers

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

An invisible-beam laser, to be used for a new form of cancer treatment, is being developed for the Department of Health and Social Security.

The device is one version in a range being made in the chemistry department of Manchester University, by a team working with Dr John Bannister and Dr Terry King.

The type being produced for the department is to allow doctors to use a different approach to killing tumours. Instead of using a laser beam to excise or vapourise cancerous tissue, the new idea is to stimulate a tumour to destroy itself from within.

The treatment starts with an injection of a biochemical substance which is carried to most tissues of the body. After 12 hours, normal tissues, have got rid of the substance but it remains in tumour cells.

When certain types of laser beam are shone on it, the compound emits a chemically active molecule which destroys the cell that contains it.

That approach to treating tumours, which has been tested by medical groups at University College Hospital, London, and elsewhere, is one of a number of applications for which the new devices, called iodine photodiode lasers, are well suited.

The Manchester University group is the first research team in Britain to make available commercially iodine lasers for medical and industrial applications. Similar research in the United States, for military versions for the "Star Wars"

programme, is not being released.

The laser's beam is invisible to the human eye because the "light" it emits is in the near-infrared part of the spectrum.

In principle, the new devices should be the best type of lasers for generating immensely high power in short pulses, hence the interest in them for laser fusion research and for weapons work. The latest research impetus is reflected in programmes in the US.

Care of patients 'may deteriorate'

A leading cancer specialist who is emigrating said yesterday that the personal care of cancer patients in Britain could deteriorate because of the "cut de sac" in career prospects among his colleagues (Thomson Prentice writes).

There was a risk that some patients would feel more isolated and distressed and less satisfied with the level of care and attention they were receiving, Dr Robert Buckman, senior registrar in medical oncology at University College Hospital, London, said.

Medical oncologists are specialists in the drug treatment of cancer patients. There are only 40 such physicians in the National Health Service and "five or six" had emigrated in the past two years, Dr Buckman said. "I am also leaving because I see the future for our doctors as utterly dismal," he said. "I am going to Canada where I know I can give patients the care they need."

Subject swap suits girls but irks boys

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Girls who study subjects traditionally regarded as for boys - such as craft, design and technology - enjoy them very much, but boys made to do needlework, housecraft and child care are less enthusiastic.

More than a quarter of the boys questioned said they disliked the domestic courses, and only 38 per cent liked them. They labelled them "sissy". These findings are the result of a novel exercise undertaken last year by the Inner London Education Authority to enable boys and girls at single-sex schools to do subjects considered to be outside their traditional areas.

First-year girls and boys at a pair of single-sex Roman Catholic schools - Cardinal Manning boys' and Stion Manning girls' in north Kensington - swapped craft classes. The girls did craft, design and technology, and the boys took textiles (needlework).

At another pair of schools - Spencer Park boys' and Gerrard Green girls' in Wandsworth - a

Call to end secrecy on AID babies

The National Marriage Guidance Council calls today for "openness and honesty" about babies fathered by artificial insemination.

It points out in its quarterly publication *Marriage Guidance* that as "AID Children" are illegitimate, mothers' husbands who register themselves as parents could run the risk of perjury.

When questioned, most AID couples said they were thinking of the child's welfare by keeping quiet, "but some were more honest and said it was embarrassing to themselves if anyone knew".

If the facts came out later "the shock of discovering you are not the son or daughter of the man you think is your father can be devastating. The resentment of having been deceived can damage the child and affect the whole family."

"We believe that just as in adoption, children conceived by AID should be told as early as possible."

Action soon on surrogacy

The Government will decide "within the next week or two" whether it can take early action to ban commercial surrogate motherhood, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said yesterday.

But it would take longer to decide whether arrangements where fees were not charged, possibly through voluntary agencies, should also be outlawed, he said on Channel Four's *Face the Press*.

He said: "Commercial surrogacy does not have many defenders and it may well be possible to stop that now before there are many more Baby Cottons."

But the question of voluntary surrogacy was more complicated. It might well need to await the Government's decision on the broader issues included in the Warnock Report, such as experiments on human embryos.

Letters, page 9

Computer smuggling crackdown bites

Up to a dozen prosecutions are to be mounted this year against British companies or businessmen accused of smuggling high-technology equipment behind the Iron Curtain.

Last week a special customs investigation team based in London, said to be called Project Arrow, achieved its first success against high-technology smugglers with the conviction of two men for sending £500,000 of American material from Britain to Bulgaria by way of Switzerland.

Yesterday a customs spokesman said the forthcoming prosecutions mainly involve computer material. In one case the allegation involved infra-red camera equipment. Charges have been brought in London, Birmingham, and Coventry. Customs investigators started

checking the movement of high-technology equipment nearly two years ago as US pressure grew for European countries to stem the eastward flow of material.

The Americans fear that the Soviet Union is trying to make up its shortcomings in military computers by importing illegally from the West.

The export of certain electronic equipment, including computers, often requires an export licence naming the destination of the equipment to avoid material reaching unfriendly countries and the Soviet bloc.

Michael Ludlam, aged 41, was jailed for two years last week for exporting six American computers. A fellow company director was given a suspended sentence.

Butter subsidy scheme runs into trouble

Thousands of tonnes of cut-price butter officially go on sale today as part of an effort to reduce the EEC "mountain", now more than a million tonnes.

The scheme has already run into trouble, partly because some stores broke a so-called gentlemen's agreement and began selling the specially labelled packs before Christmas.

There have also been allegations that the full subsidy of 53p a 250-gram pack, will not all be passed on to the consumer, but will be set against the maximum permissible retail price of 65p, which few retailers normally charge.

Holiday insurance deals to be vetted by OFT

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating whether holidaymakers are getting a fair deal on insurance taken out to cover package trips.

It is screening a wide range of tour operator brochures and has ordered a consumer survey by Harris Research, research consultants, to see if consumers feel they have been under any pressures and if they have had problems.

Although few consumer complaints about holiday insurance have reached the OFT, it particularly wants to assess the effect of some insurance stipulations. Some tour operators insist holidaymakers take

out the insurance stipulated by themselves. This happens particularly with ski holiday insurance, where the cost is built in.

Some other operators insist that if a holidaymaker takes out insurance other than that offered by the operator it should offer cover which is as good. The OFT expects the survey to show whether the insistence on a complicated comparison is effectively a restriction on a holidaymaker's choice.

The survey should also show how holidaymakers are treated on insurance questions, particularly if they make claims.

Tubular Bells composer saves curfew

The 420-year-old tradition of ringing the curfew bell in the Welsh border town of Presteigne, Powys, has been saved by the pop musician and songwriter, Mike Oldfield.

Mr Oldfield is to guarantee a 700 per cent increase in the pay of the man who rings the bell each week night under the terms of a will made in 1565 by a wool merchant, John Beddoes.

The bell must be rung from the tower of St Andrew's

Church to guide travellers lost on stormy nights if the local John Beddoes High School is to keep endowments worth several thousand pounds a year.

The present bell ringer, Mr Brian Jones, has told the church and school authorities that he could no longer guarantee to ring the bell at 8.25 pm between Mondays and Fridays because he is now offering a 24-hour plumbing service. With the ringer's pay

only £50 a year or just 20p a night there was difficulty in finding a successor.

When Mr Oldfield, who used to live near Presteigne, heard that the tradition might die, he offered to guarantee a wage of £300 a year for the ringer.

A new candidate for the post of curfew ringer is expected to be interviewed shortly.

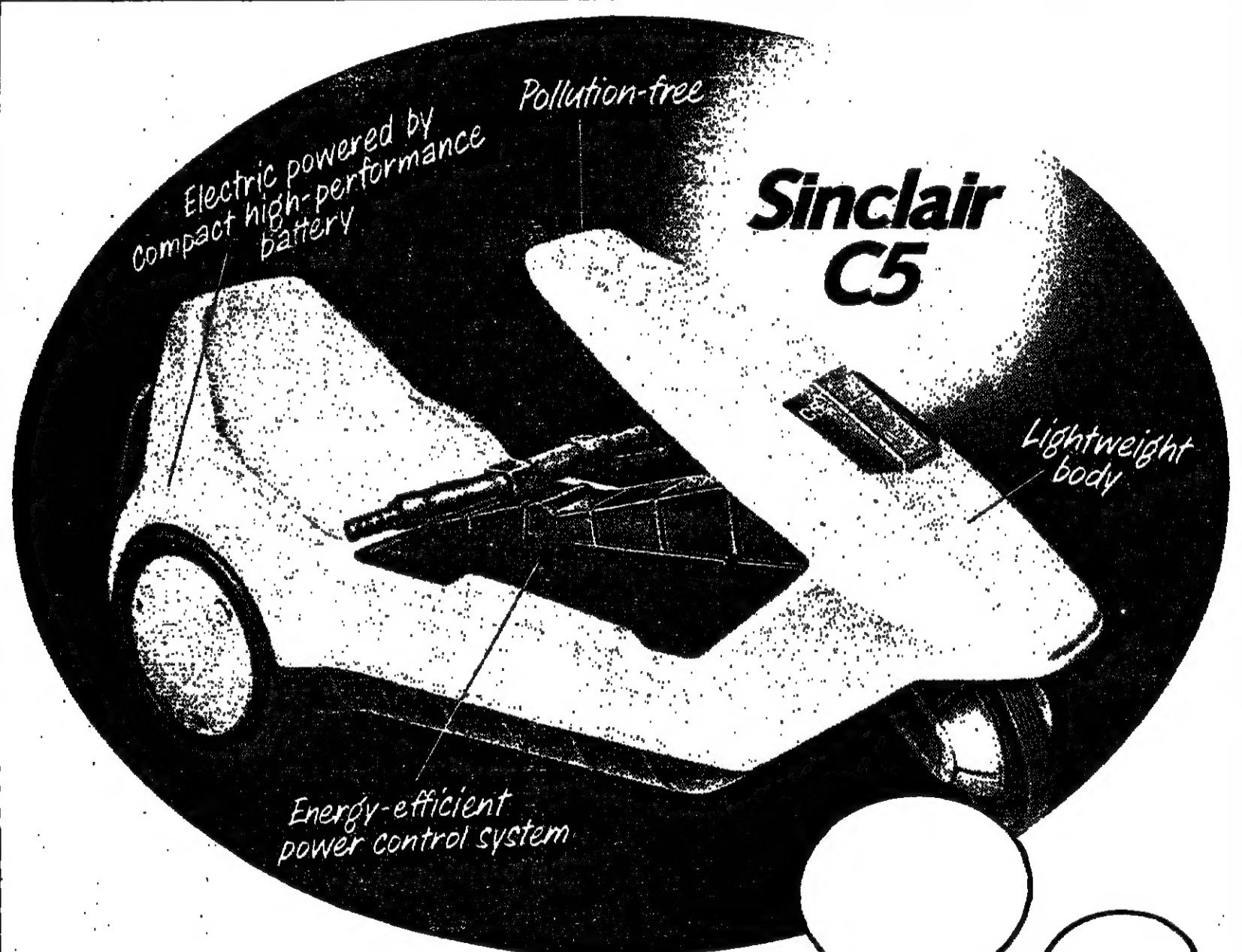
Mr Oldfield first came to prominence with his record *Tubular Bells*.

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THINKELECTRIC

The Electricity Council, England and Wales



Special Branch watches critics of status quo, Alderson says

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Mr John Alderson, former chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, will tell a Commons inquiry into the Special Branch this week that some individuals and groups are marked out for surveillance and recording because they criticize the "established order".

In the eyes of some Special Branch officers, all "activists" may be subversive and therefore warrant such deliberate monitoring, he believes.

His evidence, to be given to the home affairs select committee, will be seen by opposition MPs as proof that the Special Branch abuses its role and investigates legitimate protest and political or trade union activity, often of a left-wing nature, conducted by law-abiding people.

The select committee inquiry, which will take evidence from Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, at the end of the month, was prompted largely by the case of Mrs Madeline Haigh, who was investigated by West Midlands Special Branch after she wrote a letter to her local newspaper complaining about the siting of cruise missiles.

The Post Office last month set up an investigation into how the mail of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament had been regularly tampered with. It sent a £100 cheque to the CND as a gesture of apology.

Firms urged to improve race policies

By Pat Healy

Companies must take more action to ensure that their employment policies avoid racial discrimination, the Industrial Society says today.

The society is launching a campaign on the issue, which will offer workshops to interested companies around the country. It will build on limited work already under way in London under the direction of Mr Godwin Lessey, an adviser at the society.

Mr Lessey said yesterday: "Discrimination can start before employees get through the factory gate. Companies rarely advertise vacancies in the ethnic press and interviewers often ask blunt and tactless questions."

Interest by employers has grown in the last year, partly because of the introduction of the code of practice drawn up by the Commission for Racial Equality and endorsed by Parliament. But the Industrial Society says that employers are also becoming more aware that ethnic minority employees have a lot to contribute.

Big cuts sought in cost of TV satellite

By Bill Johnston

The partners in the British television satellite project are meeting again this week to try to decide how to cut the cost by perhaps as much as two thirds of the current £600 million estimate.

The direct broadcasting satellite, planned for launch in two years, was supposed to be made by Unisat, a consortium of British Telecom, GEC-Marconi and British Aerospace.

However the 22 partners in the project want to put the satellite out to international tender, though the Government would like the project to remain British.

The satellite was once a BBC project, but partners now include independent television, Thorn-EMI and Virgin records.

Pratt Studies Briefings No 19: An assessment of Argentine Rearmament, (School of Peace Studies, Bradford).

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates

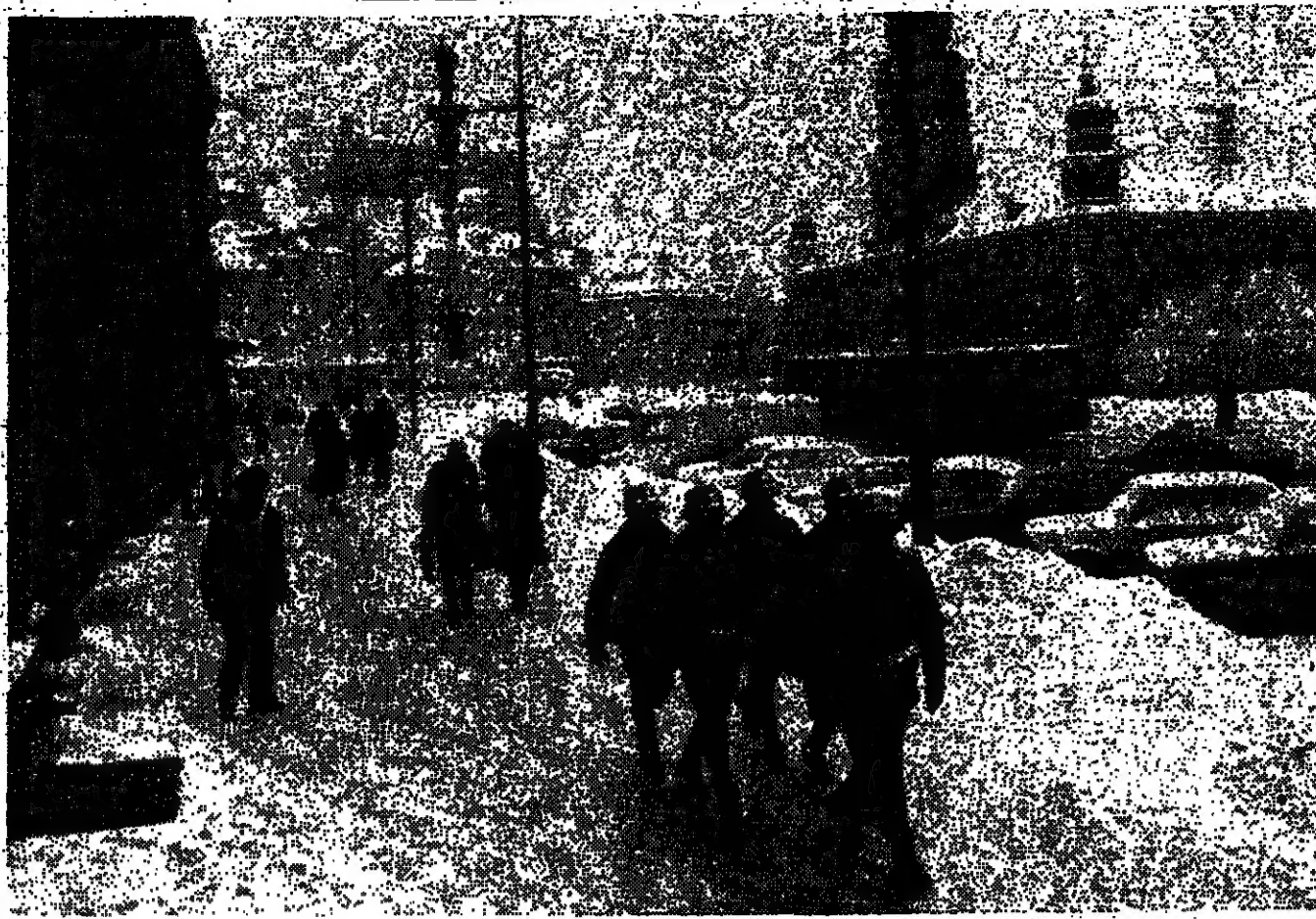
Lloyds Bank Plc has increased its Base Rate from 9.5% to 10.5% p.a. with effect from Friday 11th January, 1985.

Other rates of interest are increased as follows:
7-day-notice Deposit Accounts and Savings Bank Accounts - from 6.25% to 7.25% p.a.
The change in Base Rate and Deposit Account interest will also be applied from the same date by the United Kingdom branches of Lloyds Bank International Limited and The National Bank of New Zealand Limited.

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Life in shivering Poland: Part 1



bleak outlook: Central Warsaw decked in snow, with little sign of a thaw, economic or otherwise.

Social cracks show under sub-zero strain

This is the first of two articles from Roger Boyes in Warsaw on the economic hardships of daily life.

The Mercury is camped more or less permanently at the foot of the thermometer, at minus 20 deg C. Bottles of milk, delivered to shops before dawn, explode on the pavements, pipes burst, power cuts paralyse lifts in high-rise blocks, cast underheated schools and factories into a fumbling, nightmarish gloom. A harsh winter exposes the cracks in society, reduces life to the fundamentals of heating, food and movement.

In this sub-zero world, the Polish authorities have chosen to announce a new round of food prices. In the past such increases have sparked off riots and toppled governments, but this time they have gone virtually unnoticed.

The Communist Party-controlled press tells us there is a broad nationwide discussion of how to implement the planned 12 to 13 per cent increases, whether to accompany the rises with a complete abolition of rationing (apart from meat), whether to lift rationing on only a few products, or whether to leave rationing in place and concentrate the bulk of the price increases on meat.

The rises are due to come into force in March. Depending on

which variant is chosen, some foodstuffs may go up by as much as 80 per cent.

In truth, there is only a desultory series of under-attended discussion meetings in factories and occasional bargaining sessions between the post-Solidarity trades unions (which, in the Quixotic quest for popular support, oppose all or almost all price rises) and the amiable, well-padded Trade Union Minister, Mr Stanislaw Ciosek.

The old joke - the triumph of the Jaruzelski Government is that things are getting worse more slowly - is no longer valid. The standards of living are dropping rapidly and the painful price of under-investment in services, hospitals, schools, roads and public utilities is beginning to be felt.

If all that seems a mite pessimistic, the official statistics can be paraded in defence. In 1983, the real inflation-adjusted income of families earning in the state sector grew by 1 per cent and 1984 will be no better. If the economy will grow at the same pace, Poles can expect to achieve the standard of living they enjoyed in 1980 - by no means a pinnacle of consumer happiness - by the year 2000.

Even if economic growth, by some miracle, doubled, the 1980 levels would be reached only by the end of this decade.

The statistics in any case understate the situation. Only official prices are counted in assessing the expense of life in Poland. Thus the official price of cars has not grown unreasonably over the past three years, but most Poles are forced to buy their cars on the private market at four or five times the official rate.

The statistics do not calculate the scores of thousands of zlotys needed to bribe one's way to a refrigerator or television.

Toothpaste, for example, is in short supply so families are obliged either to buy foreign toothpaste for dollars (or inflated zloty prices on the private market) or go without. Those who give up brushing their teeth put pressure on the state-run health service with its badly paid dentists and out-of-date equipment. The waiting time for state dental treatment is so long - measured sometimes in years - that the patient seeks out private practitioners whose services are growing more and more expensive.

Salaries are increasing: the average monthly wage is now 17,000 zlotys (£108 at the official rate of exchange), but the erratic supplies, the slipshod quality of products is swallowing up more and more income.

Again, the statistics of living standards do not take into account the ageing-replacement cycle. In 1983, only 63 per cent of clothes, 55 per cent of furniture, 32 per cent of shoes and 30 per cent of dairy products were deemed to be of "satisfactory" quality. Clothes, shoes, furniture therefore have to be replaced more frequently, or one has to get by with old goods.

The winter in particular brings these problems to the surface. Cars, though brand new, fall apart and the price of replacing parts spirals.

Newly built apartment blocks in the huge, featureless Warsaw housing estate in Warsaw are the scene of daily bitter battles between residents and the authorities. The insulation is so bad that newspapers have to be used to cover cracks. Opening the door is a long, foot-stamping, comic vignette as the printed thoughts of the countless commentators are stripped from the entrance and then painstakingly replaced.

Some blocks have gone without water, hot or cold, for days. The radio helpfully suggests that Poles should wear a second jumper at home and, because city buses are breaking down, should allow more time for getting to work. Tomorrow: Rich and poor

Zia names day for elections but bans all political parties

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

All political parties have been banned and leaders of the Pakistan People's Party, followers of the executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Bhutto, have been debarré from taking part in Pakistan's forthcoming parliamentary elections.

General Zia ul-Haq, the chief martial law administrator who has ruled the country since July 1977, announced in a radio and television broadcast that elections to the National Assembly would be held on February 5 and to the four provincial assemblies on February 28. This is the third time since seizing power that the general has announced the holding of parliamentary elections. On the previous two occasions the polls were cancelled.

Besides banning of PPP politicians from the hustings the general also laid down a set of rules disqualifying certain individuals from attending as candidates. This may lead to the elimination of almost all of the top leaders of political parties.

The general, who said he was addressing the nation as its elected President referring to the results of last month's controversial referendum, also banned public meetings and political demonstrations, as well as the usual campaigning. Only door-to-door canvassing and the use of posters would be permitted.

The elections will be conducted by the Election Commission, which was set up in December 1977.

General Zia said that the first joint session of the two Houses of Parliament would be held on March 23, which is observed every year as Pakistan's resolution day. The transfer of power from the martial law authorities to the elected parliament would follow the joint session.

However he told newspaper editors that martial law would in all probability continue this year and that the new Prime Minister would be chosen by him.

UN fears famine aid is drying up

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Amid fears that international efforts to help famine victims in Africa are gradually dwindling, Mr Bradford Morse, United Nations Emergency Co-ordinator for Africa, is today meeting representatives of some 30 donor countries to tell them what is required.

UN officials are particularly concerned by the influx of 3,000 refugees a day into Sudan from Ethiopia and Chad. Estimated at 35,000 new refugees six weeks ago, the number in eastern Sudan is now close to 200,000. So far only \$9 million (£8 million) has been received towards the \$27.2 million for which the UN High Commissioner for Refugees first appealed early last month.

After visiting camps in the Kasania area, Mr Michael Barion, of UNICEF, said that at Tukulubab, where there are 35,000 refugees, "there are

people lying everywhere on the ground, unable to move. You don't know whether they're dead or dying. People crawl out of cracks in the rocks - and line up for hundreds of yards with yellow plastic buckets, waiting for the daily water truck."

They get a maximum of 200 grams of cereals a person daily. Often their condition after a few weeks is worse than when they arrived, worse than we have ever seen it in the Sudan. One child in 10 is below 70 per cent of normal weight, a bundle of skin and bones. Dysentery killed 50 children under eight over a three-day period."

● **NOUAKCHOTT:** Efforts to fight drought and desertification in the Sahel region of West Africa are a losing battle, ministers of eight countries will be told when they meet here today (AFP reports).

Plight of Wallenberg to be remembered

From Christopher Mosley, Stockholm

Diverse events around the world this week, including the planting of a tree in Hyde Park yesterday and a special address to the House of Commons in London on Thursday, will focus attention on the plight of Raoul Wallenberg, Sweden's "lost hero of the Holocaust".

In Stockholm cathedral, Swedes will pray for one of the most heroic and tragic figures in their nation's history.

These and many other events on Thursday will commemorate not only the 40th anniversary of the day that Mr Wallenberg then a diplomat at the Swedish legation in Budapest, was arrested by the Red Army, but draw attention to claims that he is still alive, aged 72, imprisoned in the Soviet Union.

While stationed in Budapest during the war, Mr Wallenberg, a member of a wealthy banking family, saved the lives of an estimated 100,000 Jews in often dangerous negotiations with Adolf Eichmann, and other

officials of the German occupation administration. The Jews were provided with temporary Swedish passports, then moved out of Hungary to safety abroad.

When the Red Army liberated Budapest, Mr Wallenberg, suspected of being a spy, was taken to the Lyubianka, the KGB prison in Moscow where, the Soviet Union says, he died in July, 1947.

However, since then there has been a persistent trickle of reports that he is alive.

The planting of the tree in Hyde Park and the address to the Commons by Mr Wallenberg's half-brother, Mr Guy von Dardel, plus a demonstration outside the United Nations in New York, and the ringing of church bells in many towns across America, are among the events which manifest a diminishing hope that Sweden's "lost hero" may one day see the freedom he fought so hard to achieve for others.

US agrees to supply China Navy

From Mary Lee Peking

General John Vessey, Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the Great Wall of China yesterday and impressed his Chinese hosts by contacting the Pentagon by radio while looking over the steps.

His visit marks yet another step forward in the Sino-US military dialogue which, after many years, is about to move into the area of defence equipment sales.

Pentagon officials in Washington had said earlier that important results were not expected from this week-long visit, the first by a US armed forces chief. However, later reports from Washington quoting Pentagon officials, say that "a preliminary agreement has been reached to sell defence equipment to the Chinese Navy" and that the agreement will be formalized during the visit of Mr Melvin Paisley, Assistant US Secretary of the Navy, later this month.

Mr Vessey also held talks with Mr Zhan Aiping, the Chinese Defence Minister, yesterday. The contents of their discussions were not disclosed, although a Chinese statement after Saturday's hour-and-a-half talks between Mr Vessey and Mr Yang Dezhi, Chief of



Sightseeing break: General Vessey taking time off from his talks with Chinese officials and military men to visit the Great Wall yesterday.

General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, said both sides "exchanged opinions on matters of common concern". These matters include China's desire to secure higher defence technology from the US and the Reagan Administration's willingness to help China improve its defence capabilities.

The Chinese are particularly interested in US technology to upgrade their navy. During a visit to the US by a Chinese naval delegation last November, the Chinese showed interest in obtaining ship-to-air missiles, radar and sonar equipment for anti-submarine warfare.

The US is apparently willing to sell the Chinese these items, but not the gas turbine engines which China wants to refurbish existing ships and for its destroyers now on the drawing board.

Mr Vessey leaves Peking tomorrow to visit Chinese Army establishments in the northeast, in Shenyang and also Shanghai and Canton.

Border open again after 45 years

From Mario Modiano Athens

There were moving scenes at the Greek-Albanian frontier on Saturday when long-lost relatives from both sides of the mountain border embraced and wept with joy after meeting for the first time in four decades.

The occasion was the official reopening of the main highway between Albania and Greece at Kakavia, which had remained closed since the Italian armies used it to invade Greece in 1940.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who cut the ceremonial ribbon on the Greek side, hailed the occasion as symbolizing the opening of a "lively and substantial" dialogue between the two countries that would greatly benefit the Greek minority in Albania.

The Kakavia highway goes through the heartland of Albania's Greek minority country, and Greece hopes that by renouncing the old territorial claim on southern Albania (North Epirus), Albanian misgivings can be allayed enough to allow greater contact between Greece and the ethnic minority in Albania, estimated at some 200,000.

Vietnamese turn guns on refugees

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Vietnam has turned its artillery on Cambodian refugees in south-east Thailand, wounding 17, according to Thai Army officers and guerrilla officials. It was one of the few occasions during border fighting that they had directly attacked civilians.

The attack occurred in the province of Trat against 9,000 Cambodians who fled last month from a mountain stronghold of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front at Sokh San. Shells also hit guerrillas on the front, killing four and wounding more than 20.

Vietnam has made no comment on the shelling, but diplomats said Hanoi may justify it by claiming that guerrillas were among the civilians. About 2,000 had been at Sokh San to protect the civilians.

News of the attack caused panic among refugees elsewhere on the border. Relief workers said some of the 155,000 who have crossed the border to escape the recent fighting fear the Vietnamese will shell them or cross the border to force them back into Cambodia.

Nuclear shadow on Nakasone Pacific trip

From David Watts, Tokyo

Trade problems with Australia and New Zealand's new anti-nuclear policy will be the principal focus of a tour of the Pacific, which the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, begins today.

But the Prime Minister has deftly defused an issue that could have marred his travels with the recent revelation that Japan is suspending plans for a trial dumping of radioactive waste in the Pacific. The Japanese Government has not completely abandoned the idea but will do nothing until there is agreement from Pacific governments led by Australia which have been strongly against it.

Mr Nakasone will be the first Japanese Prime Minister to make an official visit to Fiji and Papua New Guinea and his will be the first visit in five years by a Prime Minister to his other two stops, Australia and New Zealand.

In the words of the Foreign Ministry: "His main objective is

to establish stronger ties for the 21st century between Japan and these countries by further deepening mutual understanding through a frank exchange of views with the respective leaders."

At the heart of the desire for those ties are the important economic links that Japan has with the area. Japan is the biggest trading partner of both Australia and New Zealand, Papua New Guinea's biggest export market and the second largest supplier of goods to Fiji.

When he arrives in Australia tomorrow there will be some straight talk from the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke. When Mr Hawke was in Tokyo a year ago everything was "fair dinkum" and he left with a promise that Japan would play a straight bat on its purchases of coal and beef.

Since then things have changed markedly and Mr Hawke has seen the price of

Australian coal squeezed and purchases of both beef and coal threatened by United States exporters. Japanese purchases of coal, worth \$2 billion a year, are vital to the Australian industry. And with coalfield unemployment rising in New South Wales and American grain-fed beef encroaching on what might be an even bigger market in Japan Mr Hawke's critics say he has been taken for a ride by the Japanese.

Mr Nakasone's itinerary: January 16: Arrive in Fiji, leave same day for Papua New Guinea, January 18: Leave Papua New Guinea, arrive in Australia. January 18: Leave Australia for New Zealand. January 20: Leave New Zealand.

Mr Hawke will be emphasizing the need to resist pressure from the United States in interests, not only of his own country but of Tokyo as well, since the viability of many Australian mining operations depends upon long-term commitments from the Japanese. In 1983 Japan exported to Australia goods worth \$4.28 billion and imported \$6.4 billion worth of Australian products and raw materials.

Arms control and Pacific cooperation will most likely feature in the talks with Mr Hawke along with the Korean peninsula.

The most delicate issue to be discussed with Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, most probably "will scarcely be touched upon" in public: New Zealand's decision to stop visits by US nuclear warships.

This is of considerable interest to the Japanese not only because Mr Nakasone wants to see unity among Pacific allies of the Americans but because any overtly-blunt formulation produced by the New Zealand Government to "describe" its stand could be embarrassing at home for Mr Nakasone.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Senator Gary Hart is the lucky loser of 1984. Had he won the Democratic nomination he would almost certainly have been defeated by President Reagan. He would now be a failed candidate and the new attitudes he espoused might well have been discredited.

Senator Hart himself accepted this proposition with some reluctance when I flew with him on Saturday to Edinburgh, where he delivered a lecture at the university. But his chances in 1988 seem to me to be better than they could ever have been last year.

After eight years of Republican rule, the American electorate may be ready to put a Democrat next time, and the party may be more inclined to elect a Hart kind of Democrat now that the old policies represented by Mr Moudale are out of favour.

But how does Senator Hart intend to pursue this opportunity? Although not yet a declared candidate, he has clearly worked out his broad strategy.

We have become accustomed in recent years to American presidential candidates spending four long years on the campaign trail, pressing the flesh in as many states as possible. That will not be Senator Hart's way. He will concentrate for some time upon communicating with opinion-formers, both in the Democratic Party and in the country at large. He will hope to sell himself by selling his ideas.

New policies but no blueprint

Idea. The word has become Senator Hart's trademark. But last year it was never clear whether, with his constant call for new ideas, he was offering a new programme or a new attitude. He did have some new policies, but they did not amount to a blueprint.

Yet perhaps that was not the point. In his speech to the San Francisco convention his quotation from Roosevelt may well have been significant: "We will keep it if it works, we will keep it if it doesn't, let's try something else."

The contrast between these approaches was evident in our conversation on Saturday. At one moment he was saying: "We must create a valid impression among the voters at large that we have specific ideas and proposals for the domestic and international economy, defence, arms control, environmental quality, education, job training and the rest."

Later he was remarking: "I have a campaign style that is somewhat different from most traditional politicians. I am willing to say here is an idea X. I don't know whether this is the best idea or not for achieving a particular objective."

Broad themes were lacking

A politician who places so much emphasis upon responding to change cannot set his policies in concrete. Open-mindedness is part of the attraction of this approach to government. But it is weaknesses as a campaigning style for an electorate that wants its leaders to have relevant answers more than interesting questions.

Senator Hart's greatest failing last year was that while he had an overall concept - the need for new ideas - and a number of detailed proposals, he did not seem to have anything in between. He lacked themes. It is a gap that he will have to fill for 1988.

It is also a problem that has often plagued the Liberal Party in this country. It was no coincidence that Mr David Steel took the chair for Senator Hart at Edinburgh on Saturday. Not only are the two men personal friends, but they occupy much the same place in the political spectrum as questioning left-centrists - though Senator Hart reminds me more of Dr Owen in his approach to politics.

Just as Dr Owen broke away from what he regarded as the anachronistic Labour Party, so Senator Hart has reacted against the old politics of the Democratic Party, with its attachment to big spending and big unions. I could easily imagine him propounding the principles of "toughness and tenderness". He, too, believes in opportunity and efficiency. He gnaws away at issues in the same way.

I have met no American politician of the same standing with whom it is easier to have a genuine dialogue, even on points of disagreement. It is a style that should be pleasing to European leaders if he does become President.

Israelis on guard as Beirut troops go down coastal highway

From Our Correspondent, Ruzh, southern Lebanon

The Lebanese Army corporal manning a new checkpoint in this battered village had a message. He wanted relayed yesterday to Israel forces just one mile down the road. "Tell them we're here," the soldier said, "and tell them we're going to stay here, too."

But the Israelis manning the Awali river bridge crossing into occupied southern Lebanon were not in a communicative mood. "The Israelis are not talking today," said a fighter of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia who turned reporters back short of the bridge.

The Israelis may not be talking, but they are closely watching what the young corporal and his cohorts are doing. For the Lebanese soldiers are part of the 1,200-man brigade that the Government in Beirut, after weeks of bitter debate and several false starts, has finally succeeded in moving on to the strategic coastal highway between Beirut and the Awali, the frontline of the Israeli occupation force.

The deployment has several goals of importance to Lebanon: to end the almost daily fights between Christian and Muslim militia in the Kharrub region which borders the highway; to prove that the Lebanese Army is capable of maintaining law and order; and to put the Lebanese Army in a position to move south should the Israelis stage a unilateral withdrawal.

At the coastal town of Jiyeh, where the 12th Lebanese Brigade has set up headquarters, a Druse officer said that the deployment of the bulk of the Army force came off without a hitch on Saturday and that the convoys of trucks moving south yesterday were carrying supplies and special units.

The Army has set up four new checkpoints on the road from Beirut, starting with one at the Kharrub crossing just south of the capital and finishing here in Ruzh. But they have yet to move to positions further south and east of here, as planned.

Militiamen remain in the area though they have put their

weapons aside for the time being. A group of eight Christian Lebanese Forces fighters stopped passenger cars near Damour. One of the men, who said he spoke "for the people of Nazeem", a nearby Christian village, said: "We are with the Government, with the Army. But if the Army isn't successful, we will do what we must."

The highway - which is not yet open to the public - was deserted except for Army vehicles and the cars of local residents. Still, a few families apparently made their way to the area to try to return to homes they had abandoned since last February when fighting broke out in the Kharrub and the road was closed.

Concerned that the families were moving too soon, the Lebanese Army issued a statement in Beirut urging them to wait.

JERUSALEM: Israel's long-awaited announcement about a redeployment of its troops in Lebanon is imminent, after the opening of a full-scale Cabinet debate on the controversial subject yesterday (Christopher Walker writes).

A Cabinet spokesman said later that a second emergency session had been planned for this afternoon to continue the debate, and that an announcement was then expected about the Government's final stance.

"The decision will be difficult, because there are no ideal or magical solutions," Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, said before the Cabinet met. It was described by observers as the most important ministerial meeting since the new Government came to power last September.

JAILED FOR LIFE: A man who threw a hand grenade at peace marchers two years ago, killing one and injuring nine, was found guilty of murder by a Jerusalem court yesterday and sentenced to life imprisonment (Reuter reports).

Yona Avrushtski, aged 27, an Israeli-born Jew, carried out the attack during a rally by the "Peace Now" movement outside the Prime Minister's office.

Invasion on defensive, page 8



Welcome for troops: Under a Lebanese flag hanging from a rifle, a Christian priest greets Lebanese soldiers arriving in the town of Jiyeh.

Nkomo's car shot at after crowd ordeal
Harare (AFP) - Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe opposition leader, has called for a meeting with Government ministers over intimidation of his political campaign, claiming that his car was shot at by Government supporters on Friday in the town of Masvingo. The incident took place as Mr Nkomo was starting a tour of Masvingo province, a stronghold of the Zanu party of the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe.

Some 2,000 Zanu supporters

began a demonstration in the morning against the visit. Mr Nkomo was obliged to take refuge in the town's police station, which was eventually surrounded by some 30,000 angry demonstrators as he conferred with officials inside, according to the national news agency Zana.

The Zanu supporters besieged the station for three hours, demanding that Mr Nkomo be handed over to them for punishment because he "directed Zimbabwe's anti-

Government dissidents" and had not heeded their call to stay out of Masvingo.

Mr Nkomo was advised to leave Masvingo by Mr Edmore Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, because of the tense situation. As he left the police station demonstrators surrounded his car.

"It was here that my car was stoned and shot at several times. I survived because my car is protected," Mr Nkomo said.

Ex-minister is accused of funding bombing

From Our Correspondent Jakarta

Jakarta - A former Indonesian minister Mr Muhammad Sanusi, has been charged with subversion for his alleged part in funding the bombings which left two dead and 16 injured in Jakarta last October.

Mr Sanusi, aged 64, who has been held for more than three months, seemed old and tired when he appeared on Saturday in the packed West Jakarta district court for the opening of his trial. He denied the charges, and said only that he had lent some money to one of those charged with carrying out the bombings, but that the money had been to assist with real estate dealings.

Kyprianou will brief Thatcher on way to summit

From Mario Modiano Athens

President Kyprianou of Cyprus flies to London today to see Mrs Margaret Thatcher on his way to New York for the crucial Cyprus summit at the United Nations on Thursday.

He consulted Greek leaders in Athens over the weekend, but above all he goes to New York with the blessing of the Greek-Cypriot political leaders, who acted this time with rare unanimity.

The summit between President Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, in the presence of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to produce the framework of an agreement and a timetable for carrying it out.

There is good reason to

Meeting of minds in Managua



Talking the night away: Mr Kinnock during his early hours meeting with Dr Castro.

Castro assures Kinnock on Cuba's goals

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

After a late-night interview here with President Castro, Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour Party leader, praised him for his sage approach to the difficulties of Nicaragua. The two men both visited Nicaragua for the inauguration of Señor Daniel Ortega as President.

Asked in an interview whether he had been given any assurance about the Cuban role in Nicaragua, Mr Kinnock said: "There's a very clear philosophical adjustment coming from Fidel Castro, that it would be wrong for Nicaragua to fall into the isolationism that Cuba felt, or was pushed into, twenty-odd years ago. I think that's a source of encourage-

ment to the Sandinistas and I think it's a demonstration of sagacity by Fidel Castro."

He believed Cuba's capacity to assist Nicaragua was extremely limited and could not be of any considerable significance in any sphere, economic or military.

Dr Castro and Mr Kinnock discussed the Contadora peace process and prospects for improved relations between Cuba and the United States. They also talked about the recent Geneva arms talks, and superpower conduct in general.

Mr Kinnock said President

Castro had been extremely enthusiastic about the Contadora effort to secure Central American peace. He had told him of efforts made by Latin American ministers while they were in Managua to sustain the process and to break the deadlock resulting from amendments to the draft treaty proposed by Nicaragua's neighbours.

Mr Kinnock was impressed by the maturity of judgment of Nicaragua's young leaders and their refusal to be panicked by a hostile US. American support for the Contra rebels was unjustified and unforgivable, though remote, could only be disastrous.

"I don't see how even the firmest and closest allies, which we wish to be, could do

anything but respond with the deepest possible condemnation."

Britain should use its special relationship with the US to promote a negotiated solution of the Central American crisis.

Mr Kinnock was among guests at the inauguration who signed a declaration calling for more aid to Nicaragua. He said British aid was "pathetic, around £60,000". There were moral and material advantages in investing in a society in desperate need, specific opportunities existed in gold-mining and fishing in the country's English speaking Caribbean coast region.

Curfew halts island violence

Noumea (AFP) - A curfew ended today 30 hours of violence in New Caledonia yesterday, as French officials and Melanesian separatists both said they wanted more talks.

Officials issued a new version of the fatal police shooting of a prominent separatist.

The violence, which broke out after a 17-year-old French youth was killed on Friday, continued after the headline separatist leader, Eloi Machoro, was shot dead by security forces in a controversial encounter early on Saturday.

The clashes that followed led to the declaration of a state of emergency, and the calling of an overnight curfew. The curfew apparently was heeded, and the situation was generally calm yesterday.

Mr Machoro's family obtained permission yesterday for a second autopsy after questioning the official version. The police issued a new version of the killing yesterday. Melanesians have described it as a cold-blooded murder. The police said they had surrounded the farm near the eastern village of La For, and several times ordered Mr Machoro and 30 to 40 of his followers to surrender.

After the group came out, firing rifles, police sharpshooters were given the order to "neutralize" Mr Machoro, by shooting him in the shoulder.

The granting of the new autopsy followed claims by Melanesian leaders that Mr Machoro had been shot in the back, and reflected fears here that he would be made a martyr in the Melanesian struggle for independence.

US plots third war game in Honduras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States is preparing another show of military strength in Central America as part of its psychological war against Nicaragua and left-wing guerrilla groups.

New manoeuvres to be called Big Pine III are to begin in spring in Honduras, involving several thousand troops for about two months. About 1,500 US troops are in Honduras at present, but no manoeuvres are under way.

The aircraft carrier Nimitz is steaming towards the Caribbean, but the Pentagon refused details. The battleship Iowa is also believed to be heading for the region. Together they will represent the first significant US naval presence off Central America for about six months.

President Reagan curtailed

US military activity in the area last summer, in preparation for his re-election campaign, to disarm political opponents who said he was leading America into "another Vietnam".

The retirement in a few months of General Paul Gorman, commander of the US Southern Command in Panama - the senior soldier in Central America - is bad news for hawks in the Administration who favour a sustained policy of belligerence towards Nicaragua. More than any single person, General Gorman helped to establish Honduras as a sort of unofficial US military base.

The Administration tried to lure him to stay in the military by offering him the chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1986 when General John

Vessey's term expires. He turned it down.

General Gorman's forceful role in Central America upset some State Department officials, who accused him of conducting military-to-military diplomacy; he sometimes appeared to ignore the local US ambassadors. But having built up such a rapport with the Honduran military his position was solid within the upper regions of the Administration, which clearly aspires to a long-term formal agreement to base troops in Central America's most impoverished country.

According to accounts published recently, Honduras, El Salvador and Israel have become a key source of aid to the rebels fighting the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.



Libya envoy shot dead

Mr Farag Omar Mkyoun (above) a Libyan diplomat, was shot dead near his home in the Tiburtina district of Rome yesterday (Richard Dowden writes).

A group calling itself "Albanian" claimed responsibility for the killing. It is the same organization which it said it murdered the Libyan Ambassador in Rome almost a year ago.

Police said Mr Mkyoun, who was hit in the neck and chest at point blank range by bullets fired from a gun fitted with a silencer. He was found with a pistol in his hand having apparently fired two shots at his attacker.

Mr Mkyoun's wife said he had received several death threats recently. He had been at the Rome embassy for three years.

Dutch fury at nuclear expansion

Amsterdam (Reuters) - A Dutch Government decision this weekend to expand the use of nuclear energy against the advice of an official commission appears to have touched off a political and environmental battle which will drag on for years.

After several months of leaning towards nuclear power under pressure from industry and economists, the Cabinet agreed on Friday night to build at least two large nuclear plants.

At present The Netherlands has only one moderate-sized nuclear power station, and a second plant largely for experimental use. A powerful public campaign demands the closure of even these.

The centre-right Cabinet's decision, which it said reflected the need to meet growing electricity demand at reasonable cost, means it is taking on an environmental movement which prides itself on being among the most active and powerful in the world.

Within 24 hours of the announcement, hundreds of demonstrators gathered in icy weather at Borselle, the existing power station, to voice their fury. The main opposition Labour Party said it would make the issue a key theme

European notebook

Belgians try to dodge decision on cruise

President Reagan will have been saving up his biggest smile and handshake for a meeting this afternoon with the leaders of one of his smallest allies - Belgium.

Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, and Mr Leo Tindemans, the Foreign Minister, are spending an intensive couple of days in Washington to find out all they can about what happened in Geneva in the talks about disarmament talks with the Soviet Union.

Over the next few days Belgium must decide whether to deploy, as promised, 48 cruise missiles at the air base of Florennes. Both ministers are only too aware that their own party, the Christian Democrats, does not want deployment agreed as the campaign starts for this year's general election.

But both are also acutely aware that their country will lose out badly in credibility within the Nato alliance if they go back on the promise to deploy from March 15. They are international statesmen enough to realize, too, that a failure to deploy will mean a real propaganda triumph for the Soviet Union even before the new arms talks get under way.

Various ideas have been tossed round as a way to avoid making the decision. One idea canvassed is that Belgium would install the missiles without their nuclear warheads. These would be stored near by in West Germany where they would be available if needed.

A second idea is to delay deployment until after the general election. Mr Martens might try to persuade President Reagan that his Government will stand a better chance of re-election if it has not yet agreed to deployment and that after he is returned to office he will be able to keep Belgium's promise.

But the election is not due until next December and the Nato alliance is showing no

sign of being prepared to wait. The mood in Nato's prefabricated headquarters at Evere since the Geneva meeting is bullish. The argument is simple: the Russians left the negotiating table and have now been forced back by the determined allied posture. Now is no time to show any sign of weakness.

Even so, there remains among the European allies a residual feeling of unease about the outcome of Geneva. Will the two superpowers strike their own deal over Star Wars technology and ignore the nuclear missiles implanted in Europe's heart?

These fears have been somewhat assuaged by the speedy and comprehensive briefing given to the allies by the American Geneva team and by the promise of the fullest consultation in future. The Europeans have also been pleased to note what they see as a shift of emphasis in the American position since President Reagan's re-election, with patience and flexibility being promised alongside determination.

The belief is that there is now a sufficient head of steam for progress but that the whole alliance negotiating strategy would be weakened if Belgium refused to deploy now. Nor is much serious thought given to the idea of a freeze on deployment while talks continue. The Soviet intermediate-range arsenal is now up to 396 SS20 launchers and any freeze would leave the alliance at an enormous numerical disadvantage.

As to the elimination of all nuclear weapons as envisaged by the final statement in Geneva, there is little belief within the alliance that this is possible unless there is an increase in trust on both sides.

"If we did succeed in eliminating all nuclear weapons we would still be faced with a huge Soviet conventional force in Europe", one Nato diplomat explained. "That is where we came in 30 years ago."

Ian Murray

More snow adds to European misery

Paris (AFP) - Snowfalls across Europe at the weekend brought more deaths, with known fatalities due to the week-long Arctic weather at more than 150, mainly in France.

In Albania, 35 people died and 26 were injured as a result of continuous snowfalls. In France, where the death toll from the weather reached 106, snow began falling again yesterday across the whole Côte d'Azur.

Road accidents in West Germany caused 14 deaths and left 76 people injured, and in Hungary ferry boats were unable to navigate the Danube and Tisza because of thick ice.

Savimbi on view

Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of the Unita guerrillas in Angola, met the press at his Jamba headquarters on Saturday to disprove reports he had been injured by a bomb last week. He gave a warning that Unita is planning to use car bombs and attack multinational companies.

Computer skill

Rochester, Minnesota (AP) - In a computer-assisted technique, neurosurgeons at the Mayo Clinic here are using three-dimensional "road maps" to navigate deep into the brain during surgery. The computer turns out maps that can be removed with lasers.

Hume message

Colombo - Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, has sent a message of sympathy to the Right Rev. Thomas Savundaranayana, Bishop of Mannar in Sri Lanka, expressing his deep distress at the killing of a priest by government troops.

Kidnap mystery

Buenos Aires - The deadline set by the kidnappers of Señor Ricardo Lanusse, nephew of the former Argentine President, General Alejandro Lanusse, expired at midnight on Saturday with no news of whether the family had paid a reported \$2 million (£1,818,000) ransom.

Village fiesta

Plan, Spain (Reuters) - This tiny Pyrenean village intends to hold a fiesta in the spring for the hundreds of women who answered an advertisement for wives placed by bachelors in a local newspaper.

Victims of love

Gauhati, India (Reuters) - An Indian train killed two male rhinos locked in combat on a railway line near here over the favours of a female, an Assam wildlife official said. The animals had escaped from a forest sanctuary.

The Human Village: a three part series in which our science correspondent Thomson Prentice looks at how the body works and what you can do to keep it running

Getting to the heart of the matter

The human body is the small village we live in. We may think we know it well, but much of it remains mysterious, barely explored.

In this three-part series, we take a guided tour of the Human Village, guided by experts. We visit its most important areas to discover what happens there, more about what they do and more about what we can do to protect and conserve them to lead longer, healthier lives.

These visits are probably overdue. In Britain, a nation which prides itself on its health service, we die younger than our counterparts in Europe and Scandinavia.

Our unhealthy lifestyles, including smoking, faulty nutrition and lack of exercise, are the likeliest explanation. Over the past 30 years, progress in reducing premature mortality in the UK has not matched that of our continental neighbours.

For every four French, Dutch, Norwegian or Swedish citizens dying of heart disease between the age of 55 and 64, Scotland

and Ireland have ten such victims, and England and Wales eight.

Britain spends less per capita on health services than it does on tobacco and alcohol and less than most European countries, both per capita and as a percentage of gross national products.

"We wonder whether these striking figures are widely known by the general public or even the medical profession," said community medicine specialists Prof John Catto and Dr Sherry Ford, of Wessex Regional Health Authority, publishing data in the *British Medical Journal* last month.

"It may be that the public and politicians have been lulled into a false sense of complacency about the state of the nation's health," they said.

What about the state of health of that most important human village - yours?

In Part One today we visit the heart - a unique power station that started working 24 hours a day long before we were born - and the lungs, the oxygen factory that processes every breath.

HEART

Its beat first echoed softly in your mother's womb eight months before you were born. It will stay with you - a gentle, reassuring reminder that all is well - every moment for the rest of your days. The heart never sleeps.

Instead it performs miracles. Look at your fist. That's the approximate size of your heart. Now clench and unclench it 70 times, with one eye on your watch, for a minute. That is the minimum sort of effort your heart has been making all your life.

Sometimes it will work twice as hard, when you run for that morning bus, for example. But on a quiet day, it beats only 100,000 times. Three million times a month. If you live to be 80 - and let's try - that's 2,880,000,000 heartbeats; each meticulously timed to pump two or three ounces of blood, about half a teaspoonful, into your system. Even on a quiet undemanding day, your heart will push between 3,000 and 5,000 gallons of blood around your body.

One of the most sophisticated electronic cardiac pacemakers in the world is the lithium iodine-powered gadget. Its maker claims it has a

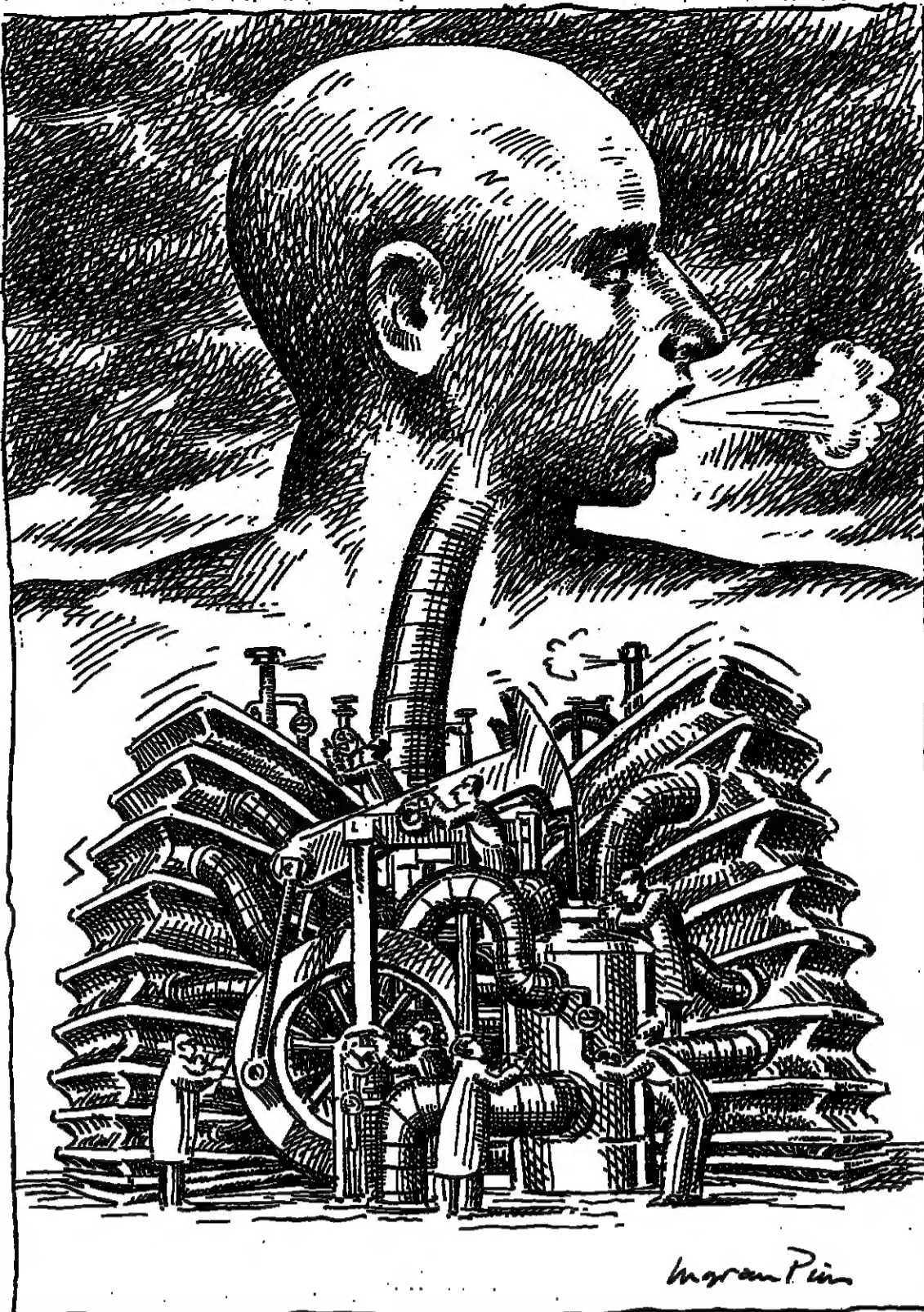
theoretical life of up to ten years. Deep in your heart, nature, or your Maker, has tucked away the real thing, the sinus node. This is life's tiny battery, woven in a tapestry of muscle and nerve cells, and controlled from the brain.

The node, contained in the right atrium, or receiving chamber of the heart, emits an electrical discharge which causes the surrounding muscles to contract.

The whole thing is so wonderful, in fact, that you may want to go and sit somewhere quiet and just listen to it. Instead, what most of us are more likely to do with this unique,



The lithium iodine pacemaker



Ingram Pinn

beautiful little machine, is wreck it.

This self-destructive tendency, well-known to every doctor in the land, helps explain why Britain has the highest death rate from coronary heart disease in the world, for both women and men. It is an epidemic, and the leading cause of premature death in the UK, claiming up to 180,000 victims a year. But it is preventable.

The government-sponsored Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy has said that we should eat less fatty meats, dairy products, sugar and salt; and that we should eat more fresh vegetables and fresh fruit, poultry, fish, potatoes, beans, and bread, especially wholemeal.

The guidelines are based on the argument that we eat too much fat, particularly animal fat, which contributes to atherosclerosis by raising blood cholesterol. Cholesterol is a fatty substance produced in the body naturally; an excess may lead to blockages of the arteries.

Changes in your diet may also be necessary because of your weight. Being overweight puts an extra strain on the heart and increases the risk of other disorders, including hypertension. It is also likely to be a factor in lack of exercise. Regular exercise conditions the heart to extra demands placed on it.

Dr Keith Ball, an eminent

cardiologist and chairman of the Coronary Prevention Group, says: "It is a sad human failing to leave things until they are too late. We take better care of our motor cars than we do of our heart. But by some elementary precautions and the occasional check-up we can add years to its performance."

Within our Human Village, the heart is a vital power station serving the entire community. Superbly efficient, it needs comparatively little external supervision or maintenance to keep it working smoothly. It does, however, need protection.

The heart is in fact two separate pumping units, each with two chambers, the atria and ventricles. The atria are collecting chambers, the ventricles are the pumping rooms.

The veins deliver dark blood which has circulated around the body to the atrium of the right heart. The atrium channels it to its neighbouring ventricle, which then pumps the blood, via the pulmonary artery, into the lungs.

Lungs and heart are interdependent. Every breath provides a fresh load of oxygen to refresh the blood, and turn it bright red simultaneously, purging it of carbon dioxide. Lungs dispatch it to the

atrium of the left heart, and through the ingenious one-way mitral valve into the left ventricle. The ventricle's job is to pump this top quality blood into the arteries, the main supply lines to the rest of the body.

This is the cardiovascular system. It's an admirable transport network which delivers all life's essential supplies, nutrients, oxygen, minerals, water and other sustaining materials.

As it delivers, it also collects, picking up the nutrients that the heart itself depends on, and by-products - carbon dioxide and excess water. It is regular and dependable. But like all transport systems it is accident prone.

If the power station gets substantial fuel, it begins to filter. If the roads are blocked or jammed, vital traffic is reduced to a crawl. If essential deliveries don't get through, the village faces death.

Accidents, however, can be prevented. Coronary heart disease is linked, international medical opinion states, with well-defined risk factors. They are: cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, unhealthy diet, obesity, and lack of exercise.

This does not necessarily mean that they are the causes of serious heart illness. But a great and growing

BODY SURVIVAL

The heart and lungs are much more likely to continue performing their vital roles without breakdown if basic survival guidelines are followed.

- The greatest unnatural enemy of both is the cigarette. There is only one generally accepted rule within the medical profession about smoking: don't. Your health will be impaired, possibly permanently, if you do.
- Your diet plays a predominant part in affecting the performance of your heart. Eat less fatty meats, dairy products, sugar and salt. Eat more fresh

vegetables and fruit, poultry, fish, potatoes, beans and wholemeal bread.

● Watch your weight. Obesity endangers the heart and lungs, putting them under greater strain, forcing them to work harder.

● Take regular exercise to improve the performance of heart and lungs and to help them cope if and when exceptional effort is required of them.

● Consult your doctor at regular intervals and have him or her check your general state of health.

● Make adjustments in your lifestyle if necessary to reduce the amount of stress imposed on you.

weight of evidence points to their complicity.

The biggest single problem is coronary artery disease. The coronary arteries are the conduits of the heart's own blood supply. If blocked, blood, and therefore oxygen, cannot reach the heart. The result is what everyone has come to describe as a heart attack.

Such a blockage usually occurs because the arteries have been narrowed by the gradual build-up of fatty deposits in the artery walls. This process, atherosclerosis, may begin in childhood.

Slow as the process may be, the climax can be sudden and dreadful. Death without warning. Damage to the heart for some survivors, of whom some will never be able to resume a normal life.

The coronary arteries can also be blocked by a blood clot, or thrombosis. Clotting happens when platelets, one of the three types of blood cell, stick together in a lump, or thrombus.

Coronary thrombosis kills the part of the heart muscle supplied by that artery. If the thrombosis occurs in an artery supplying the brain, the result is a stroke. Narrowing of the arteries also can cause angina, a cramp-like chest pain provoked by inadequate blood supply to the heart, usually during exercise.

High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is not in itself a disease, but a warning that heart disease may be lurking. The higher your blood pressure is, the more likely you are to have a heart attack or a stroke. Life insurance statistics show men of 35 with moderately-raised blood pressure can expect to live about 15 years less than men with normal blood pressure.

Only half the people with hypertension are aware of the fact, yet high blood pressure can be lowered by reducing weight, changing diet and increasing exercise. The Royal College of General Practitioners recommends that, if you are between the ages of 20 and 65, you should have your blood pressure checked every five years; more often if there is a family history of hypertension.

The extraordinary advances in surgery and the development of drugs in recent years means that in Britain alone, thousands of heart disease patients' lives are saved every year. Severe congenital heart disease, with which infants were doomed to survive only a few years, is now tackled successfully by some of the most skilled paediatric surgeons in the world.

But surgery is a last resort. For many, many thousands of people, heart disease is caused directly by the way they live.

There are many causes of cardiovascular disease, some of them little understood, and research continues worldwide. Narrowing of the arteries, and high blood pressure, have in themselves many factors. Undeniably, we contribute to them.

With every puff, cigarette smokers inhale chemicals known to seriously damage the heart and lungs. Carbon monoxide, the poisonous gas in car exhaust fumes, deprives the heart of oxygen; nicotine increases the pulse rate and blood pressure; and both add to the risks of blood clotting.

Currently about 100,000 people a year in the UK choose not to lead the many warnings, and die. In men under 45, smoking is the cause of four out of five deaths. The 25-a-day

man, aged 45, is ten to 15 times more likely to die from a heart attack than a non-smoker.

However, men and women who quit will have, after five years, little more chance of a heart attack than a lifelong non-smoker. Those who have already had a heart attack and then give up cigarettes, cut the risk of a second attack by half.

LUNGS

Of all the vital organs, the lungs are the most vulnerable - largely because they alone are continually exposed to the outside world.

Fortunately, the defensive barriers in the nose, throat, windpipe, and lungs filter and exclude most of the hazards. The lungs are thus able to perform perhaps the most important function of vital activity - respiration. Their second crucial role is as a filter for the blood.

Our lungs are a rosy pink in infancy, but become mottled with grey and black streaks and patches as we get older. The more they are exposed to dust and pollution, the darker they become. A coal miner's lungs may eventually be almost jet black.

Occupational hazards associated with lung cancer include working with such minerals as asbestos, arsenic, chromates and nickel, and radioactive materials such as uranium, and a wide range of chemicals, as was most tragically illustrated in the Bhopal disaster with the escape of lethal methyl isocyanate.

But by far the most dangerous hazard is cigarette smoke. The latest figures show that in 1982, 59,368 people in Britain died from lung cancer. The figure was rising. In its report *Health Or Smoking*, the Royal College of Physicians said in November, 1983: "No developments in our understanding of lung cancer have shifted emphasis away from cigarette smoking as the chief culprit."

Apart from cancer, smoking also contributes to often fatal chronic obstructive lung disease - causing progressive difficulty in breathing due to narrowing of the air passages in the lungs - and a form of chronic bronchitis.

Lung surgery has always been particularly difficult, not least because of the risks of infection. The transplantation of lungs, first attempted about 20 years ago, has been unsuccessful compared with the grafting of other organs, and has been largely replaced by combined heart-lung operations.

The first successful such operation was performed in Stanford, California, in March, 1981, with the patient still surviving. The first heart-lung transplant in Britain was at Harefield Hospital, west London, in December, 1983, on a Swedish journalist, Mr Lars Ljungberg, who died 14 days later.

Since then surgeons at both Harefield and at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, have been more successful.

TOMORROW

Into the corridors of power at head office. The brain, whose doors are never closed

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

1 All chest pain which is also felt down the left arm is due to heart disease. There are several causes for this pain.

2 All pain felt over the left breast is due to heart disease. Heart disease is sometimes felt in this area but the usual site of heart pain is behind the breast bone or right across the chest.

3 Heart attacks only occur in those people who have known risk factors, such as high blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol levels, obesity or hereditary problems. Two thirds of all cases have displayed no known risk factor.

4 A middle-aged man who feels a pain behind the breast bone after eating and has no previous history of indigestion, is suffering from indigestion.

"Indigestion" arising for the first time in middle age should always be investigated to exclude heart disease.

5 A high blood pressure is always associated with symptoms, particularly headaches. Most hypertension is symptomless until it has reached a very dangerous level. Blood pressure should be treated long before it reaches the symptomatic level.

6 All heart attacks are of equal severity and have the same outlook. Every heart attack is different and the prognosis varies in each case.

7 By-pass surgery is a cure for coronary heart disease and therefore further action need not

be taken. In fact, by-pass surgery is a treatment for angina which happens to prolong life in many cases. After treatment all the normal precautions advised to patients suffering from coronary heart disease should still be observed.

8 If angina is still present after by-pass surgery the surgery has been badly carried out. The coronary heart disease has probably been so extensive that perfect circulation could not be restored.

9 Death from cancer is always more unpleasant than death from heart disease as patients suffering from coronary heart disease always die quickly. Many patients with coronary heart disease develop congestive

cardiac failure or renal failure and die slowly.

10 Most forms of heart disease can be eased by a course of treatment. Once treatment has been recommended for a heart condition it will probably be continuous.

11 All exercise prevents coronary disease. Sudden violent exercise, particularly in the middle-aged male, can precipitate a heart attack.

12 Bracing cold weather, unheated bedrooms and refrigerator-cold cars, provide a healthy environment. Extremes of temperature can precipitate a heart attack.

13 A persistent cough, particularly in younger

patients, is likely to be due to chronic bronchitis. The commonest cause of a persistent cough in childhood is bronchospasm (asthma).

14 Children grow out of asthma. 50 per cent of asthma patients still retain it in adult life.

15 Patients never die from asthma. 1,500 die every year.

16 Cigars are safe to smoke. If the patient has been a cigarette smoker, the high tar yield of tobacco may make cigars more dangerous than cigarettes.

17 Cigarettes are needed to clear the chest of bronchial secretions in the morning. A morning cigarette does induce a

productive cough, but only productive of the sputum caused by the damage done by previous cigarettes.

18 Sleeping with open windows is good for chesty people. It can be a killer in cold weather.

19 It does not matter where you live. The age of the house or the animals in the house, even the location are all important. The Thames Valley is particularly bad for asthma. Anywhere over 6,000 feet, where house mites can't live, is particularly good.

20 Changing to low tar cigarettes is always beneficial. The benefit only occurs if a patient does not compensate for the low tar by smoking more.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

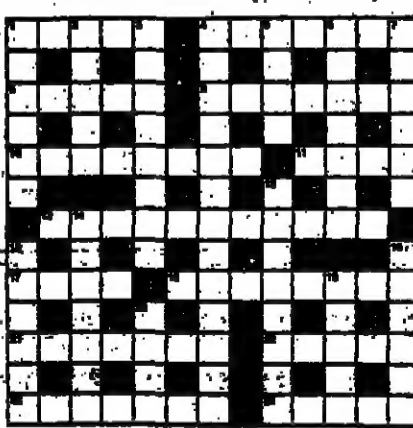
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 543)

ACROSS

- 1 Hurl (5)
- 2 Charm (7)
- 3 Maxim (5)
- 4 Wheel on (7)
- 10 Booklet (8)
- 11 Smile (4)
- 13 Smoked sausage (11)
- 17 Dry (4)
- 18 Make weak (8)
- 21 State (7)
- 22 Priestess (5)
- 24 Set (7)
- 24 Set (5)

DOWN

- 1 Chilled (6)
- 2 Parance (5)
- 3 Horse show (8)
- 4 Clumsy man (13)
- 5 Sure stupidity (4)
- 6 Authorize (7)
- 7 They go out (6)
- 12 Staunch (10)
- 15 Pupa (6)
- 16 Perceived (6)
- 19 Promotional description (5)
- 20 Quite well (4)



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can't move of their own accord, so I just send them south. In my case to an accommodating cousin who lives in Provence. I load up the yacht in about September and have a leisurely cruise down to the South of France, taking all my tender blooms and some of the smaller palms with me. They love going south for the winter and it certainly makes the boat look decorative, not unlike a floating jungle.

It is impracticable to take the larger palms with you, so make sure you grow those varieties which are so leafless you are never quite sure if they're dead or not. That way, it doesn't matter if they do die. The Tunis Garden Centre of Tunis, Tunisia, have a very good list. Send an SAE, but with a Tunisian stamp, of course.

I don't know if you are like me, but when I shut up Moreover Towers for the winter, I always find that there

are lots of plants round the house which I've got absolutely fed up with during the year, exorbitant bought on a whim or potted presents brought by house guests. Simply leave them out in the garden for the winter. They'll be as dead as mutton when you come back.

Your garden birds will need to eat and drink in your absence, and as it is out of the question to take them south with you, you must leave drink and food for them. I expect, like me, you have a river or two running through the estate so remember to tell the staff not to let it ice over. Bird seed, of course, but mix in one or two of the more exotic seeds with it - hemp, cannabis, morning glory, that sort of thing. Gives them the right philosophical attitude with which to get through the winter with.

I found a blackbird on my lawn one winter who had obviously been at the seed,

because he was standing just staring at the snowflakes, uttering the bird's equivalent of "Wow". No reason why a bird shouldn't have his consciousness raised as well, I suppose. He became a great friend of mine. He turned out to like caraway seed as well, but I made the mistake of giving him a few helpings of Kámel round about Christmas, and I'm afraid he took to drink. We used to hear him crashing round the trees at night and flying into the greenhouse. He had to go, of course.

Where was I? Oh yes, the garden in winter. Fish are a problem, of course. I've solved this by only breeding fish which can be used in *nouvelle cuisine* (we've got a *nouvelle cuisine* chef - like prawns, monkfish and things, so before we go south we just eat them all up).

That's about it, really. Any other problems occur to you, just drop me a line. Or give me a ring. I'm in the phone book.

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Why more women aren't fellows

Despite the introduction of mixed sex colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, female dons are still a tiny minority. Alan Franks talked to some of them

The 1970s and early 1980s will be recalled by the women of Oxford and Cambridge universities as a period of most desperate revolution. "We shall fight, we shall win, we shall get the women in!" That apparently simple, often strident ideal of a dozen years ago seemed by the end of the decade to have been attained. One by one the men's colleges had voted, after centuries of academic calisthenics, to admit females.

However, this emancipation is not being remotely matched at the fellowship, or teaching level. Indeed the picture that emerges bears some resemblance to the swan - plenty of movement down below, but virtually stationary on top.

At Cambridge by mid-1983, when there were three times more female undergraduates than before, only 15 per cent of fellows were women, and well over half of these were in the women's colleges. Moreover, the length of time since mixing had taken place at the different colleges seemed to be making little difference. Of the three in the vanguard of the movement, one had eight women in a fellowship of 107, another had four out of 57, the third had three out of 55.

At the same time some of the erstwhile women's colleges have sustained a considerable influx of men, prompting many disenchanted Oxbridge women to observe that mixture has only improved the lot of an already advantaged group.

At Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, which mixed just five years ago, there are already 15 men in a fellowship of 35. University College, with six years of mixture behind it, still counts just one woman.

The reasons are highly complex - as are the ancient collegiate organisations of the two universities themselves - and the arguments frequently emotive. Depending upon whom you listen to, you could form a number of conclusions: either that this is just another deeply sexist institution impeding women's career paths, or that women fail to sell themselves effectively in the academic market place, or that change will come, but cannot be expected overnight.

"Eighty years ago the idea of women fellows at men's colleges would have been laughed at," says one female Oxford lecturer. "Half a century ago it would have been considered pretty incredible. Even 20 years ago, it remained unlikely. So - in 30 years time - who can say?"

Sceptics of this gradualist argument say that if anything significant were going to happen, there would surely have been signs of it by now. According to a young male tutor, one of the first to be appointed to a women's college at Oxford, the colleges themselves are relatively guiltless. "It would be wrong to say that since mixture women's jobs have been seized by men. If you want an explanation, I think you have to look to the departments."

"In science, a predominantly male subject, a fellow appointed by a department had no option

but to be at a men's college. Now there is a choice. As far as the college is concerned, we want the best person in the world, and we are not interested in arbitrary reasons like does he or she have blue eyes and come from Leicester or whatever."

Not surprisingly, a separatist movement has arisen. Women-only colleges will continue to provide guaranteed jobs for female academics, and ensure that the position of women is discussed in the university at large. In almost every instance, this separatism is born of the conviction that the present system is working against women's interests.

It is also clear that in the mixed colleges women are few and far between in positions of influence, and therefore also in the hierarchy of the university. Extraordinary though it seems, tales of active discrimination against women are hard to come by. Instead, it is suggested that something deep in the structure of the institutions, quite separate from its human components, is blocking advancement of female academics. If that sounds like an ingenious piece of male scapegoating, it has no shortage of women adherents.

This view would not find favour with the Association of University Teachers. In 1976 its general secretary Mr Laurie Sapper was trying, with little success, to find out from the Equal Opportunities Commission how many women had been invited for interview for vice-chancellor posts.

Just three months ago, under the headline "The Lady Vanishes" there was a "little" contribution to our letters page lamenting the fact that we had carried a photograph of 57 university vice-chancellors and principals with not a single woman.

In the end there is no getting away from those arguments which have nothing to do with higher education and everything to do with attitudes at schools.

One Cambridge linguist in a tiny minority of women said: "Whatever other reasons there may be, you have to take it back to early education. Particularly in mixed schools, girls are asked to make decisions about life at precisely the wrong age, just when they want to impress boys; trying not to appear too clever. On yes, that still goes on."

Even at my school, which had a large number of girls from academic families, it happened. These you still have, this stereotyping along subject lines. The girls don't like to compete with the boys, so they leave science alone, and the boys don't like to be for languages because it's a girl's subject, and so on. A university cannot help but reflect what has gone before."

In Dorothy Sayers's novel *Gaudy Night*, there is a moment when students in a women's college wonder what on earth they will do if they get better exam results than the men, pretend they only did it by cheating, their eyes at the vice-chancellor? Are the echoes of that anxious exchange still waiting down Oxbridge corridors?



Sitting tight in Cambridge: Tess Adkins, Mary Beard and Rosemary Morris

'Other universities face the same barrier'

MARY BEARD, classics fellow, Newnham College, Cambridge (women only). My strongest reaction is of disappointment. Ten years ago, when I was an undergraduate at Newnham, it seemed that the solution to the question of equal academic opportunities was easy - get women undergraduates into the men's colleges. We didn't distinguish between chances for students and chances for fellows. This was naive.

At that time, only one in ten undergraduates was female, compared with one in three today. The competition of fellows meanwhile has not changed to a remotely comparable extent.

It would be too easy to say Cambridge is populated by sexist male dons. But the fact remains that not many women are being appointed. I think women in other universities are facing many of the same barriers.



Standing their ground at the Oxford colleges: Helen Cooper, Jose Harris and Dr Carol Clark

CAMBRIDGE

'The main thing is: can you do the job?'

TESS ADKINS, senior geography tutor at King's College, Cambridge (mixed). Helps choose teaching fellows.

When we were holding interviews recently to appoint a lecturer, we had a shortlist on which there was an equal number of men and women, and it just happened that the committee had an identical composition. The job went to a woman.

It was the result of a natural process. I do not cite that as a typical story - but rather as one which it would be encouraging to see more often. In this case the women were very impressive, but I can imagine many instances in which this would not be so. The main thing is: do you do a good job?

'The wives resented me and felt threatened'

ROSEMARY MORRIS, director of studies, modern languages, St Catharine's College, Cambridge (mixed).

It is pleasant to be in a novel minority (St Catharine's has five women in a fellowship of nearly 40), provided that people are well disposed to that minority, as they are here.

Before, I was at Emmanuel, the only women in the college, after being in a 100 per cent majority at Girton. Eventually, I managed to identify the fellows who had voted against the college going mixed, but they took a conscious decision to abide by their democracy and were not in any way hostile or condescending.

The only ones who seemed to resent me and to think their own roles were being threatened, were the older fellows' wives. If there was a dinner, they used to talk across me at table about common acquaintances.

OXFORD

'... I was a curiosity'

DR CAROL CLARK, modern languages tutor, Balliol College, Oxford (mixed).

Normally, as a new fellow, you would expect no-one to take any notice of you, just as you would in any other organization. By being the first woman fellow here - it was quite the reverse; I was a curiosity.

What happened here was rather an inversion of the norm. Women fellows were admitted

in 1973 (when I arrived), but the necessary two-thirds voting majority to admit female undergraduates had not then been reached. There now four women fellows out of about 60.

The Common Room was very straightforward and members who had been against the idea of a mixed fellowship had a social code which made it impossible for them not to be pleasant.

'Some chauvinists about'

JOSE HARRIS, tutorial fellow in modern history at St Catharine's College, Oxford (mixed).

In academic life it is very important what you do with your first research job. Most spend the years between 21 and 26 doing their thesis, then looking around for a junior fellowship. It is possible that because that period between the early twenties and early thirties coincides with the main child-bearing age, women will put off the thesis until their forties. If you accept

that, the attaching of an upper age limit - it might be 28 - to a particular appointment is highly discriminatory.

Strangely, I find it is my faculty colleagues who are less easy about female employees than my college ones.

It is far harder for a woman to make an impact on the faculty than on her own college. That may just be because one doesn't know them so well, although thinking of my faculty I reckon there are one or two male chauvinist pigs about.

'One really needs a wife'

HELEN COOPER, English tutor, University College, Oxford (mixed).

Univ lost its old image of The Pub on the High more than 10 years ago. By the time I joined in 1978 as the first woman fellow there wasn't really a sense of entering a men's club. Six years later I'm still the only one.

Many of the other fellows have highly intelligent wives

with very demanding jobs, and there is not that terrible sense of social isolation which outsiders imagine.

You feel that you've got to keep proving you're as good as the men, and that you must keep publishing. With two children (twelve and eight), the problems of fitting everything in have been constant and enormous. I think what one really needs is a wife.

Presentable ways of saying no



PENNY PERRICK

What do you do when a man waves fistfuls of fivers in front of your nose and demands that you go out and buy his girlfriend's birthday present for him because he hasn't the vaguest idea what to get her.

This is no mean old male chauvinist, you understand. This is a keen young tycoon, committed to sexual equality in the workplace and much given to telling anyone who will listen about his plans to introduce a fifty/fifty staffing ratio, and his recent appointments of two female heads of departments in his textile company.

It is just that long after everyone else has been bludgeoned into believing in the total interchangeability of the sexes, any woman can become a finance director, any man can change a nappy, my friend the textile tycoon has only cottoned on to the first bit. The way he sees it, anything a man can do, a woman can do as well but that which traditionally a woman has always done, a man has no hope of achieving. A back-handed compliment which the women in his life, a group in which I am included, could do without.

Trying to find a perfectly polite way of refusing to do his shopping for him, I turned to my favourite etiquette book, *Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behaviour*, but on this occasion, Miss Manners turned out to be a woman of straw. I trailed through the index, seeking "sexual equality", "male manipulation" and even "feminine mystique - how to cope". All absent. Admittedly, Miss Manners takes two whole pages to explain how to say "no", but her advice is to say: "I'm afraid that's just impossible" which, in my case, would be telling a lie, since it would have been perfectly possible to have hauled a taxi and bought up half of Bond Street within minutes.

What I needed were a few guidelines on how to explain, I wanted to say: That there is no mysterious current which connects one woman to another so that we are all aware of each other's dress size, favourite colour schemes and taste in jewellery. That in fact, these things should all be well-known to a close male associate of average intelligence. That just as I do not find my sex a hindrance in buying a chap a whisky and water, ordering and paying for same and then carrying it from the bar counter to where he is sitting, he will not find his sex causing any problems when he walks into knitwear department and asks to see what they have in blue cashmere in size 36.

There are no tribal rites, there is no initiation ceremony that renders you fit to penetrate Liberty or Fenwick. Anyone can do it - is hardly more difficult than finding your way around Birmingham's Spaghetti Junction.

Just as anyone, provided that he has completed a small amount of basic research beforehand, is able to deal with the indecencies of sales assistants demanding in an unsettling manner to know whether you require the Underwired in the Nude or in the Champagne.

I didn't do it, of course. I couldn't trust myself to deliver this explanation without sound-

ing shrill - something of which Miss Manners disapproves very much. Besides, I reasoned that if I refused to translate the fivers into something acceptable, he would have to buy the present himself and the poor girl would end up with something hurtful impersonal, like a blank cheque or wildly unsuitable, like an initialised powder-compact.

However, I intend to pay him back in kind. With a great deal of arch whyness about it needing a man to understand "these fascinating electrical things". I shall insist that he accompanies me to Harrods on the last day of the sale to look at waste-disposal units.

I am surprised by a recent finding in this newspaper that jolting the road map constituted a major holiday touring problem. My own experience is that although the inability of one partner to fold the map properly may lead to a minor rift, this is as nothing compared to what happens when it is discovered (in Calais) that the road map has been left on the hall table (in London).

And even this could be regarded as mere bickering compared with *The Big One*, by which I mean that row that ensues after the sixth time that the person in the front passenger seat has mentioned "Oh look, that seems like a nice little restaurant on the left and I'm absolutely famished", which is the cue for the driver to push down hard on the accelerator while exclaiming: "Too late, we've passed it now. Why didn't you say so before?"

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Paternal pangs as girl meets boys

A year ago boys were anything but the centre of my 14-year-old daughter's attention. The pop

superstars Duran Duran came first, with pop music following a close second and third. Being at an all-girls school and with two younger sisters, boys were kept very much at arm's length. In the span of a few weeks all that has changed. Indeed the recently teased Duran Duran concert took second place to an hour long telephone call of chat with Richard, whoever he is. Richard, I am assured by my daughter, I met at her own Christmas party. But then I also met Chas, Dave, Bill, Jonathan and Marnel, a smooth talker, aged 15, with an engaging personality, a gold ring through his ear and silver chains hanging in elegant loops from his belt. These jangled as he moved and, with cheeks sculptured with startling orange make-up, he could easily have passed for a young pop star.

My daughter and her friends met the boys in September when the two local single-sex schools joined forces to present a Christmas show. The following weeks and months were a period of heady excitement and anticipation as the youngsters poured their energies into rehearsals. I was too naive to realize that it was more than the catchy tunes from *My Fair Lady* that attracted my daughter and her friends.

The actual production was a great success and possessed a

FIRST PERSON



magic that only youthful enthusiasm can instil. When the last night was over and the cast party had evaporated in sticky floors and empty beer cans, the sadness in my daughter was painful to witness. It was as though she had been robbed of something she had only just grasped: the magic of friendship with the opposite sex, the endless excitement of living in the present.

But within days the boys and girls were together again, carol singing and planning parties, beginning to weave the intricate webs of teenage relationships which necessitate a dozen telephone calls a day. Thus I was confronted with my daughter's first teenage party away

from home. Yes, I said, she could go, but I insisted on taking her and collecting her.

I collected her about midnight and could tell that the party was all rather respectable. Exuberant high spirits and young boys drunk on a little more than atmosphere play acting the parts of world weary men. As I drove home my daughter seemed rather aloof. In the back of the car two girls, by degrees maternal, understanding and solicitous, consoled a third whose innocent infidelity after her regular boyfriend of two weeks had left the party, caused waves of anguish and tears lest he find out.

My daughter's own Christmas party (the result of a promise made contingent on a good school report) ran smoothly enough. We supplied the drinks, a weak Sangria and Bucks Fizz with plenty of fruit juice and cider. The theory was that we could at least regulate consumption. Even so we found a small empty gin bottle at the end of the evening. My wife supplied food too, sandwiches cut into neat triangles that by the end of the evening were neglected and stale, their corners curling like much thumbtacked magazine pages.

We made occasional forays into the mallee. Unnecessary errands took us to the kitchen so that we could keep an eye on things. However doors left discreetly ajar were slammed shut by an unseen hand.

At midnight the music stopped. Goodnight kisses and quick cuddles were either stolen or denied. A fleet of parental cars carried them off into the night. Little mess was left behind. There were no spillages or breakages, the result of parameters being clearly defined by adults who were in attendance. The evening had been a wonderful event and the joie de vivre and innocence had been intoxicating.

A pang went through me. I had forgotten how fresh and revelatory youth could be. Suddenly I seemed to lurch toward emotional senility and old age as though something more than just my daughter's party had reached an end. I was left with an ache and an acute awareness that my daughter's life must now follow a path tangential from my own. Life it seemed had precipitated her into womanhood while I still saw her as a child.

During those few Christmas days we had both experienced a rite of passage. The tortuous iniquities of adult life opened in front of her and I knew that I had to learn to let go the reins that had held her in check through so many years of nurturing. For me the transition from dominating parent to friend will be a painful but necessary process. For her it will be something she will demand as a right.

Michael Young

THE TIMES DIARY

Home thoughts

After my note on Sir Robert Sitwell's suppressed book on the Abdication, a reader informs me that a letter in his private collection from the Duke of Windsor to Lord Beaverbrook, dated Paris, March 13, 1939, the Duke writes: "I know I need not stress the highly confidential nature of this letter or the grave danger of the information it contains ever being traced back to me..." He says he had been advised "to postpone our projected visit to England this spring" lest "the attitude my mother and sister-in-law seem likely to adopt towards my wife may provoke some controversy in England and adverse criticism of them in America. In accordance with playing my brother's game, I have agreed to another postponement, but, believe me, for the last time." The Duke denies a *Sunday Express* report that he will "not set foot in England" until the Duchess is accorded the title of HRH and is received by the two Queens. Although "insulted" and "resentful", the Duke says "...whatever may be the behaviour of Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth towards the Duchess, it would in no way affect any plans we might make for going to England."

Caning

Researchers should hurry to London stockbrokers Buckmaster and Moore, whose merger with Credit Suisse was announced on Friday, before Swiss banking archives swallow vital socio-economic history. In the Thirties Buckmaster clients included John Maynard Keynes, reputedly one of the shrewdest investors of the time whose speculations are said to have made fortunes before breakfast. At Buckmaster they tell a different tale. According to their records Keynes was more often wrong than right. It is even said that some of his investments were so imprudent that the firm had to bail him out come settlement day.

● A double for Coca-Cola. It has become the first sponsor of the 1988 Olympic Games, to be held in the South Korean capital, Seoul, and is also the "official soft drink" for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

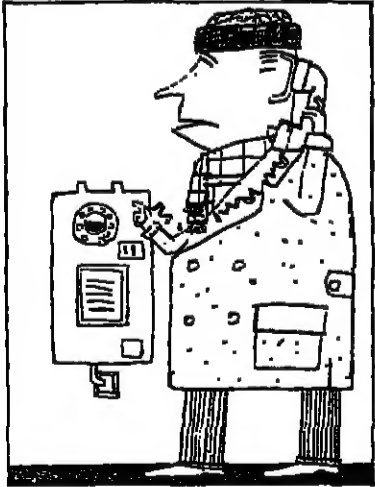
Instant replay

The Clive Ponting trial will be nothing if not dramatic: Channel 4, I learn, is planning a night-by-night reconstruction of the events at the Old Bailey. The idea, dreamt up by former *Crown Court* producer Dennis Woolf, is for teams of shorthand writers to provide running transcripts of the proceedings which actors will mug up in time to perform that evening. A dummy run has just been completed, using another Old Bailey trial, and actors are being hired who of necessity bear no resemblance to any lawyer in the Ponting case. On the night of the verdict Ponting himself will be interviewed on Channel 4 News. The interviewer: Alexandra Moore, an ITN producer and daughter of the British ambassador in Washington at the time of the Belgrano sinking. Sir Nicholas Henderson.

Curtain up

Suddenly there's no stopping the once-reluctant picket Neil Kinnock. He has now agreed to speak later this month alongside NIM secretary Peter Heathfield. The occasion will be the Sheffield premiere of the 7:34 Theatre Company's coal strike play *The Garden of England*, for which 1,500 striking miners will be bussed in. At subsequent performances Arthur Scargill and Tony Benn will speak, and photographs of the baton-wielding-copper genre will be flashed above the stage.

BARRY FANTONI



Hushed money

Oliver Smedley, the veteran anti-EEC campaigner is claiming victory in his battle to stop the Treasury paying an extra levy of £121.5 million to the EEC without parliamentary authority. In December, Oliver Smedley cheekily took the Treasury to court on the issue and apparently lost when the Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson, declined to declare the payment unlawful. Last week, however, the government quietly conceded the point. A parliamentary answer from Treasury minister Ian Stewart appeared in *Hansard*. The payment was not to be pushed through, as planned, by statutory instrument; there would, announced Stewart, be a special Consolidated Fund Bill so that parliament could have a proper say.

PHS

Robert Fisk charts the rise of Lebanon's anti-occupation resistance

Invaders on the defensive

Marrakeh, southern Lebanon. A few months ago Haidar Dayekh, a rather plump, bearded Lebanese militiaman sporting a golf cap, sat in the shade of a few olive trees near his home village of Jouaya and explained to *The Times* why he supported the Israeli army's presence in southern Lebanon. An Israeli Shin Bet agent sat next to him, while he presented himself as a Lebanese patriot anxious only to prevent the Palestinians returning to his country.

Times change, however, and the penalty for collaboration in southern Lebanon is a fearful one. Knowing this, Dayekh resigned his job in Israel's so-called "home guard" army in November. But he was too late. A few days ago, while constructing another floor to his breeze-block home outside Jouaya, a car pulled up outside and a man stepped out holding an automatic weapon. The gunman then calmly emptied the entire ammunition clip into Dayekh's stomach. He died instantly.

Dayekh's name had already appeared on a secretly printed wall poster pasted up in Tyre and other Israeli-occupied towns. Signed "National Resistance", the document contained the names of 45 collaborators, many of them members of the Khalil family. The Khalils used to work for the Palestinian guerrillas in Tyre but were promptly bought up by the Israelis after the 1982 invasion. All those on the list, said the poster, had been sentenced to death. In the past couple of weeks most of the Khalils have hurriedly left town.

But last week a new poster appeared, carrying 26 more names. Cars belonging to three of them have already exploded in neighbouring villages, and pro-Israeli militiamen - together with Israeli troops - have found themselves this month under the most sustained and murderous guerrilla assault ever mounted since the invasion.

The Israelis have released scarcely any details, but in the first seven days of January there were 28 separate attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, and 13 on Israel's "South Lebanon Army" militia, leaving five Israelis wounded, one militiaman dead and another five wounded. In addition, four Palestinians accused of helping the Israelis were murdered in the Ein Helweh Palestinian camp in Sidon. There had been only 25 ambushes of Israeli troops in the whole of December and 20 on the SLA.

Furthermore, the resistance in the south is gaining confidence almost daily. In the village of Abbasiyeh, for example, four hooded men walked into the local coffee shop in broad daylight and pointed to a 37-year-old Palestinian called Yussef Abdul Ghani. "This is a collaborator - we are the National Resistance", one of the hooded men screamed, before bundling the luckless Palestinian into a car. His body, with a towel over his head, hands tied and his back torn open by three bursts of machine-gun fire, was found on December 18 at the nearby village of Bourj Rahal.

Even more brazen was an incident on January 3 when a pro-Israeli



Lebanese civilians wait to cross the Batar Bridge, where now even crack Israeli troops show signs of nerves

gunman called "Ringo" was travelling with two SLA colleagues on the road from Deir Qanoun to Abbasiyeh. At a bend in the country lane, an old woman suddenly appeared and waved "Ringo" down. As he pulled to a halt four men stepped out of the bushes and sprayed the car with gunfire, killing Ringo and seriously wounding his two friends.

On the same day, an Israeli army patrol accompanied a team of Israeli Shin Bet agents to investigate the shooting. Just west of Abbasiyeh their convoy was ambushed when two roadside bombs blew up 60 yards apart. The moment the Israelis jumped from their vehicles they came under automatic weapon fire. And no sooner had they extricated themselves from this attack and raced towards Tyre than they found themselves under small arms attack just outside the city.

The violence is clearly affecting the army of occupation. Doctors in southern Lebanese hospitals are increasingly complaining about innocent civilians brought into their emergency wards after Israeli soldiers have sprayed gunfire wildly

around the streets after an ambush. UN officers, for instance, have recorded an incident in Tyre in which an Israeli soldier accidentally fired a shot from his rifle, a mistake which apparently persuaded his colleagues they were under guerrilla attack. In the frantic and pointless shooting that followed two civilians were reported to have been wounded.

Up on the Israeli front line at the Batar Bridge last week, Israeli troops could be seen shouting at Lebanese women trying to cross to southern Lebanon, brusquely ordering away a tired old woman on the grounds that they were "too busy" to let her cross their lines and go home. If this had been the act of frightened reservists, it might have been understandable. But these were soldiers of Israel's crack Seventh Armoured Brigade which won renown in the battle of the Golan Heights.

Security has now deteriorated so badly that up to a battalion of the Golani Brigade has been sent to Tyre from the Awali River to support the anti-guerrilla war being carried on by Colonel Gaby, the

local Israeli commander, and his team of plainclothes Shin Bet men. Shin Bet has itself introduced another team of Israeli intelligence agents with new code names. Most of the young men arrested around the city, for example, are questioned by two European Israelis who call themselves "Abu Moussa" and "Younis". A man using the name "Abu Ghazal" has now taken charge of Shin Bet activities around the village of Bidias, taking his team through the narrow, broken lanes in black and white Mercedes cars.

In the most recent raid on Bidias on January 2, the Israelis sent in their special "anti-terrorist" unit code-named "Entebbe", approaching the village on foot through the orchards from the north, arresting nine men and prompting villagers to accuse the local UN troops - a French army battalion of collaboration with the Israeli army. So anxious has the UN become to disprove these claims that both the French and the Finnish UN battalions now warn villagers in their operational areas of the approach of Shin Bet patrols.

Not without reason. The UN believes that most mistreatment of prisoners is now carried out by Shin Bet - and the UN battalions in southern Lebanon want nothing to do with it.

Nahib Berri, the Lebanese Shia minister for southern Lebanon, has claimed without a shred of evidence - that he could "almost ascertain" the UN's involvement with the Israelis, an allegation apparently based on the presence of French troops during an Israeli search near Bidias. The French have been quick to contradict this impression. Villagers in Marrakeh say that French troops laid a tricolour on the street when the Israeli army entered their village recently and told the first Israeli soldiers to approach that they would open fire if one Israeli vehicle so much as touched the flag.

The Israelis have since complained to the UN of the French battalion's "complicity" with the guerrillas. So while Israeli and Lebanese military negotiators argue at Naqoura about the UN's future role in the south, the UN and the Israelis themselves touch a new level of mistrust.

The Israelis still want their SLA militia to control the far north of the country, in liaison with the UN. The Lebanese government insists that its army can do the job. The truth is that the Lebanese army is incapable of the task, but that the SLA is being so dominated by guerrillas that it will be as equally ineffective by the time the Israelis withdraw. And when they do pull out, it looks ever more likely that the chaos the Israelis leave behind them will be much worse than that which existed when they came.

Two separate Palestinian groups are now carrying out "executions" in Sidon each week - hooded men from the "people's tribunal" and the "Organization for Palestinian Martyrs" are dispensing justice in a area still under Israeli occupation. If this is what life is like under nominal Israeli control, the Lebanese are asking, then what is it going to be like when they have gone?

Lucy Hodges on the Joseph inquiry into an issue that refuses to go away

Why student loans should not be written off

formulated before the last election could at first have cost about £25m a year, and would not have brought in any money to the Exchequer for about 10 years.

On the other hand, it has become increasingly difficult to justify grant spending of £700m a year at a time when every other budget is being cut. Moreover, it has been argued, notably by a Conservative MP, William Waldegrave, when he was at the Education Department, that the grant system acts as a financial straight-jacket on the system. Student numbers have to be restricted to control an otherwise ever-expanding grants bill. Replacing grants with loans would release funds so that more or different people would be able to take advantage of higher education.

Professor Maurice Peston of Queen Mary College, London, and on the left of the political spectrum argues that far from restricting access to higher education, loans could enable all those who wanted to go to university or college to do so.

His scheme, whereby loans would cover the difference between a means-tested grant and maintenance needs, would be expensive, and not

what Sir Keith has in mind, he emphasizes. But it would solve the problem of access to education, dependence of 18-year-olds on their parents and the donation of public funds to children of rich parents. None of these ideas is new. Loans were being mooted in the 1960s when the late Lord Robbins wrote the report which led to the massive expansion of higher education. Lord Robbins himself extolled the virtues of loans when he spoke in the House of Lords. Tony Crosland was the first minister to examine the subject when he was at the DES, but when he moved on it disappeared from sight.

Loans were the subject of numerous independent pamphlets and reports, notably from the unofficial Higher Education Policy Group in the early 1970s. Its final report in 1974 recommended a top-up loan element in the maintenance grant, to be repaid over about 30 years by deductions through the Inland Revenue.

With considerable foresight the group pointed out that loans were needed to induce older people, in their twenties and thirties, into

Sir Keith's repeated claim that "we still have the most generous system of student support in the western world" is more or less correct. The one country which outdoes Britain is Australia, where student fees and living costs are met in full. Apart from West Germany and Japan - both loans only - most western countries operate a mixed loans/grant scheme.

● West Germany has a new system of interest-free loans for student maintenance worth about £175 a month which have to be repaid at a rate of £30 a month over 20 years. Previously there had been a mixed loans-grant scheme. State universities do not charge tuition fees.

● In Japan, the government provides loans for both tuition and maintenance. They range from £75 to £140 a month, depending on whether the student goes to a state or private university, and whether he or she lives at home or in rented

accommodation. Students may be exempted from tuition fees in certain circumstances.

● The USA operates a patchwork quilt of grants, loans and college work-study programmes. There are three types of federal loan, one for low-income students which carries a 4 per cent rate of interest, another for middle-income students (8 per cent) and the third, nicknamed Sally Mae, with interest at market rates.

● In Sweden all students receive a basic grant supplemented by a loan, carrying a 2 per cent rate of interest, to cover living expenses. Tuition is not charged. Loans are repaid over 10 to 25 years. Any graduate whose income falls below a fixed minimum is exempted repayment. The default rate is low.

● France has a mixture of grants, loans and pre-employment contracts. The most needy receive grants and the rest can borrow between £300 and £1,200 a year.

higher education. "This kind of expansion will never happen unless we institute some kind of loan scheme", it said.

It was not until Mrs Thatcher's election victory in 1979 that the issue surfaced again in official circles. The appointment of Rhodes Boyson, a loans enthusiast, to education minister ensured the subject a high place on the agenda. Dr Boyson went on a much publicized trip to the US and the Treasury began talking to the banks.

The emphasis then was on a scheme run by the banks, but it did not get very far. The Committee of London Clearing Bankers made it clear that the banks would only be interested on certain conditions, one being that they should choose the loan recipients. This was unacceptable to the Department of Education, which insisted that students entitled to grants should be entitled to loans in any new arrangement. The banks in turn would only agree to run a loans-for-all scheme with an absolute guarantee from the government to pay up for defaulters, to which the government also could not agree.

It took the arrival of Sir Keith Joseph to reopen the topic. From autumn 1981 to the spring of 1983 a detailed proposal was drawn up for half the present maintenance grant to be paid in the form of a loan, with the rest to continue to be means-tested. Graduates would pay back the loan over 15 years; at current rates, an average repayment of just over £200 a year.

If a graduate's income fell below a certain level, probably about 70 per cent of average earnings, loan repayments under this scheme would have been deferred, as they would if graduates were unemployed, disabled or looking after children.

A number of sweeteners were proposed to make the scheme more palatable to students. These included extending the loans/grants mix to all students in higher education who get drawn up for half the present maintenance grant from local authorities.

The Treasury accepted the proposal, albeit grudgingly, and the scheme was set for government endorsement. At this stage it ran into opposition. A quiet but effective campaign sprang up on the Conservative backbenches, spearheaded by Sir William van Straubenzon, who has always been opposed to loans, and Cabinet ministers decided that the issue was too controversial to be promoted just before a general election. The Secretary of State for Scotland said Scots would not accept loans and Lord Hailsham thought loans might breach the 1944 Education Act. The proposals had to be put on ice.

It is ironic that Sir Keith's recent parliamentary defeat should be the occasion for a new and more serious examination of the issue.

John O'Sullivan

After Salt, more pie in the sky

"Talking Again" was the title of the *New York Times* editorial on the Shultz-Gromyko agreement at Geneva. The tone of extreme relief is unmistakable - the triumphant shout of an escaped Trappist.

In fact, the United States and the Soviet Union have been talking without pause on a wide variety of topics. There have been discussions on grain purchases, cultural exchanges, fishing rights, search and rescue procedures, upgrading the hotline, nuclear non-proliferation and much else. If we need a convenient and accurate image of the two superpowers, it might be that of club bores endlessly exchanging facts and figures.

What gives the Shultz-Gromyko talks the interesting appearance of novelty is that they happen to be about arms control. It would be difficult to exaggerate the holy significance which the American political class attaches to such discussions. One has had the impression in recent weeks that Winston Churchill made only one memorable remark: "Law is better than war."

Two superstitions explain this fervent support for conversation. The first is that a reduction of armaments is likely to proceed from the greater "understanding" of each other's position developed in the course of negotiations. Surely, however, Mr Gromyko understands Western attitudes quite well enough already. His further understanding might not be an advantage to us. And what produces an agreed reduction in arms is the fact - a fact of strategy rather than of psychology - that it is in the interests of both.

It is for this reason that arms control often advances through formal discussions by a series of winks and nods leading to mutually advantageous resumptions.

The second superstition is that negotiation is the only alternative to war and that therefore as long as states are talking, they are not fighting. Dean Acheson pinpointed the fallacy here: "Nothing could be more untrue - they are fighting..." Soviet tactics in particular turn Clausewitz on his head - negotiation for them is a continuation of war by other means.

The American public as a whole seems to recognize this. An opinion poll taken in April 1984 showed that 80 per cent of the public believes that the Russians have violated existing arms treaties and would violate future ones but the deep reluctance of the political class to think in such realistic-cum-pessimistic terms emerges in the very words and phrases used in the arms control debate.

To be "serious" about arms

control - and the gravest charge levelled against President Reagan in the recent campaign was that he was not serious in this way - means to be enthusiastic about securing some future arms control treaty. It certainly does not mean attempting to discover if Moscow has adhered to previous arms agreements. Indeed, it outlaws any morbid interest of that kind.

Anyone who persists in checking the Soviet Union's compliance with past treaties is liable to find himself denounced as a "critic" of arms control. He will not, of course, lose his job in these enlightened times. But nothing he says on the topic need be listened to again.

Last Saturday, for instance, the *New York Times* revealed on its front page that an official report cataloguing 17 major Soviet violations of arms control treaties had been largely compiled by someone who "made no secret of his disdain for arms control accords". Those 17 violations might be thought to justify the critic's disdain. But I rather fancy the *New York Times* felt that his disdain discredited his reported violations.

Someone who is serious about arms control - or, still better, "committed to the arms control process" - will naturally be keen to ensure that treaties are successfully negotiated. This involves more than ignoring whether past treaties have been violated. It also requires watching US officials closely to ensure that they put forward "negotiable" proposals.

In this context, "negotiable" has a simple meaning. It means proposals acceptable to Moscow. Someone committed to arms control is always aware of how easily the Russians are discouraged. Pre-emptive concessions are therefore constantly urged upon the United States.

What would a detached observer expect when influential opinion presses strongly for a series of new arms control treaties, argues that to obtain them the West should "take risks for peace" (i.e. offer unilateral concessions), shows extreme reluctance to examine whether past treaties have been complied with, and resolutely ignores anyone who persists in drawing attention to such violations?

Well, I suppose that he might expect an arms control process that did not actually control arms. And when one reflects that during the period covered by SALT I and II the Soviet Union deployed no fewer than 21 new nuclear weapons, systems and the total number of warheads on both sides more than quadrupled, that is exactly what we have got.

Anne Sofer

Words upon words but speechless

Journalists have stopped attending GLC committee meetings. It's a pity, but you can't blame them. All that earlier combative political knock-about has been reduced to an efficient and esoteric routine. The women's committee still sometimes comes to life with a fierce argument between different schools of feminism, and the housing committee (an exception this, as it is under the control of moderates) still actually discusses the day-to-day operation of the service. But most committees are reduced to a genial conspiracy to get through the business as quickly as possible.

The proceedings must be bewildering to the few people in the public gallery. There are usually a large number of items (sometimes over a hundred) and these days they go through at a spanking pace. The chairman announces "Item 39". The opposition spokesman cries "Oppose". Papers are turned over and the chairman calls "Fifty". (The Alliance often doesn't get a word in and the committee clerk has to check up on our vote afterwards).

At intervals a question is asked. Clearing his throat, a member interjects "On this item, I have a query on paragraph 83". There is a period of confusion as officers and a few of the more diligent members search for paragraph 83. Bafflement reigns, with irritated rustlings of documents and people peering over shoulders. "I'm sorry," says the Chair, "there is no paragraph 83 on item 40". "Oh, I thought we were on item 37". "No, we agreed that several seconds ago. We are now on item 40. Agreed?"

And so we go on. Meanwhile there is a fair amount of background noise and bustle. An unpredictable but welcome tea trolley may appear, and cups, sugar, biscuits are passed around. A junior committee clerk is in almost constant rotation around the committee room table delivering late papers, and troops of officers are always arriving and leaving. Since a member may very occasionally manage the split-second timing required to ask a relevant question, and since there is no way of knowing when item this will occur, a team of officers has to be ready to answer on each item.

Few actual votes are taken. The majority party's assent to every proposal is taken for granted. Occasionally the Opposition will ask for a recorded vote, usually because it feels a particular proposal may end up in court, and it wants its members names on record as opposed. Everything grinds to a halt while the clerk reads out the list of names and we all reply "for", "against" or "not voting". But apart from this little ritual, the Labour members customarily sit there silently, obediently turning over the papers in that huge pile before them. A word about this huge pile. The set of papers for a single committee meeting can now frequently top six

inches - that is all four volumes of the London telephone directory. It will have arrived in stages during the 72 hours preceding the meeting - and very often another smaller pile (perhaps the thickness of the Yellow Pages) will be waiting on the table, or circulated during the meeting by that rotating committee clerk, but it is also partly a form of legal protection - an amulet against surcharge for members.

Let me explain. Since so much of the GLC's spending is controversial and there have been so many threats of legal action, members have to be in a position to prove that on any challenged decision they have "considered all the relevant factors". Therefore they need financial reports and legal reports, and possibly a couple of counsel's opinions as well: that is in addition to the officers' recommendations, the theoretical background analysis prepared by one of the newly created socialist think-tanks, the considerations for women and ethnic minorities, and some sample glossy literature.

As long as the members can actually prove that at the moment of decision they have in their possession all that heap of processed pine forest, infused with hours of bureaucratic labour and word-processor time, they are assumed to have performed what is legally necessary to reach a reasonable decision. For appearances' sake, the police fiction that they have read it is retained, but fiction it is.

In this fashion, in the week before Christmas and with no publicity, an extra £6 million of spending on new initiatives was committed. The decisions were taken against the background of a desperate financial situation on which officers had prepared full documentation. ("Was it read?") This indicated that if the council continued to eat into reserves next year the result would be anarchy: once rate-capping was introduced money would not be there even for essential services. The most bizarre example of the contempt with which this advice has been treated was the decision by the staff committee to spend £126,000 on an advertising campaign to convince blacks and homosexuals of the exciting prospects of a career with the GLC.

Mr. Tarrant commented to a friend to whom I told this story. The image is wrong. It is a dance, but not one of despairing escapism. It is an open-eyed and manic waltz. Those who are calling the tune at County Hall want the coming months to be as chaotic and disrupted as possible: rate-capping and abolition after all are not (as they see it) their fault. Let London burn! And let the accusing fingers be pointed at Mrs Thatcher. The only question that concerns them is: How can we make sure they stay pointed in that direction? The author is SDP member of the GLC, LEA for St Pancras North.



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WHITHER THE BBC?

Tomorrow the Labour MP, Mr Joe Ashton, launches a Bill calling for the BBC to take advertising. Last month, on the very day that the BBC began its campaign for a 41 per cent increase in its licence fee, the Prime Minister let it be known that she too favoured BBC advertising. The BBC is today accused, with varying degrees of fairness, of inefficiency, unaccountability, self-aggrandisement, feather bedding its employees - everything from impotence to John Setwyn Summer to failing to make "Jewel In The Crown".

Are the critics justified? In their main principles, yes. The Cabinet is to make a decision on the size and duration of the next licence fee in the next few weeks. In the present climate that can only be an interim announcement. The debate must - and will - go much further. The BBC should not survive this Parliament at its present size, in its present form and with its present terms of reference intact.

To justify the changes it is necessary to look much more deeply at the nature of the BBC than has been done hitherto. With the Annan Committee's Report still not 10 years old, tired BBC executives may feel that they have been examined to death. They have not. Since the very foundation of the BBC there has been a paradox at its heart. Radio and television are considered to have a role as a public servant. Their service - while not an essential one to be funded from tax like the police or the army - is nonetheless a public good, at least in part. But because that part contains its political reporting and analysis, politicians have always been shy of defining to the public what that public service broadcasting should be.

For more than 60 years the licence fee has provided an acceptable screen behind which the question could be fudged. The BBC has been allowed to evolve its own concept of public service broadcasting. The essence of this is the idea of a

seamless robe, that there is no point in a daily broadcast diet at which entertainment ends and the public service begins. Not everyone in the BBC believes this convenient diktat for the same reasons. To the true disciples of Lord Reith, the meat and the pudding are both necessary parts of the same well-balanced meal: it is as much a component of the public good that the quiz show be a suitable family treat as that the news programmes keep the electorate properly informed of world events. To the more cynical broadcasters, the role of the quiz shows is to bring in the size of audience necessary to justify a licence fee which comes from everyone who owns a television set, regardless of whether he/she watches BBC or not.

The system still has its defenders - and not just in the BBC. The licence system has reached the status of an acceptable institution in its own right. And the duopoly in which the BBC alone takes the licence fees and the independent companies alone broadcast advertising might have continued for ever were it not for a number of pressures that now look set to burst it apart.

First, since the arrival of independent television, the BBC has found it harder to win the audience necessary to justify to itself its licence fee monopoly. As was pointed out in a study for the Annan Committee in 1977, professional-ism is the prized epithet of praise for the modern BBC man. The realists quickly triumphed over Lord Reith's true believers in public service. The BBC's seamless robe has long looked remarkably similar to that of its commercial competitors.

Secondly the BBC expanded pari passu to meet the general expansion in broadcasting. The seamless robe has stretched to take in local radio, a new television channel and breakfast television. Costs rose sharply and are still

rising sharply. For the BBC, unlike its competitors, every extra hour of broadcast presents no revenue, only extra bills. In the future looms the enormous cost of technical enhancement from satellites in space and cables beneath the city streets.

Thirdly, those same technical advances - plus others in the fields of home computers and videos - are extending consumer choice, making it still harder for the BBC to achieve its chosen level of domination in the market.

Fourthly, the political climate has changed. Today a duopoly has to be justified. So does a poll tax such as the BBC licence fee, particularly one that is fast rising and looks set on present policies to rise still faster. The fact that 70 per cent of the BBC's licence fee increase is allegedly required to meet its own special 29 per cent rate of "broadcasting inflation" makes the present government especially and rightly suspicious. Moreover the spiralling of the licence fee has accentuated its essentially "regressive nature". The family with the single parent and the single television set pays the same as the opera loving tycoon with a television in every room; and the tycoon's favourite television Shakespeare is subsidised by the very quiz shows that so successfully keep the children quiet.

As a result of these pressures, various questions should now be asked - and answered - by politicians and broadcasters. We hope to identify them in this and two further leading articles. What is public service broadcasting? Is the existing BBC concept of PSB the only one? Are not some aspects of PSB more important than others? If a licence fee is thought acceptable in principle but too large in practice, cannot a reasonable public contribution to broadcasting be concentrated on those areas most central to public service?

JOB-SWAPPING IN WASHINGTON

There are those, not least on this side of the Atlantic and on the eastern coast of the other, who argue that the most important American political event of the next few weeks is not the inauguration of Mr Reagan in his second term of office but the presentation to Congress in early February of plans for federal taxing and spending in the later part of 1985 and 1986. This is to set the cart before the horse. It is to underestimate, once again, Mr Reagan's achievement both in the past four years and last November. It is to down-play the sincerity of the endorsement given him and his policies by American voters. It is to ignore his potential as a second-term President, not to make some fiscal miracle that will overnight restore the European central bankers, but to create (given some progress in arms negotiations with the Soviet Union) a political mood in Washington conducive to reasonable compromise on the issues of government outlays and income.

Adherents of the same school of Reagan doubters - numerous in Great George Street and Threadneedle Street - have been reading the runes over the simultaneous translation of Mr James Baker to the US Treasury and Mr Donald Regan to be the White House Chief of Staff. Mr Regan's vigorous denials of American responsibility for the state of the European exchanges have won him few admirers here (though even his detractors have recently had to applaud his proposals for taking a mop and bucket to the Aegean recesses of the US Tax Code). Nonetheless, the quality of Mr Regan's

relationship with the President, taken together with his proven managerial abilities and four years' experience of Washington dynamics, promise a happy appointment. Mr Baker's emolument will undoubtedly smooth the passage of White House measures on Capitol Hill.

Of course the 1985-86 budget with its plan for cutting the federal deficit will be a major measure. The scale of the American deficit alarms us. So it should, and not merely because of its effects on sterling or on British Atlantic trade. The existence of the deficit and the difficulties of reducing it contain lessons for the governance of all liberal democracies where the state's tax-financed generosity has become a crutch and a boon to so many voters and opinion-influencing institutions.

President Reagan is sometimes personally and exclusively blamed for the deficit as if Congress and the multitude of commitments made over the years not least by the Democrats in the House of Representatives has no hand in it. (The President's tax-reduction scheme of 1981 was, it should be remembered, subverted by spending decisions made after the mid-term Congressional elections.) The deficit was created in tandem and only in partnership with the White House and Congress. It is, naturally - as we have seen in the past week in ambiguous statements from both the President and the House Majority Leader - there is politicking to be done over such issues as social security payments. But the upshot of the changes in Mr Reagan's Cabinet

is a re-shaping of his advisory and executive team as a better instrument for Washington infighting, for the deals and concessions that will be needed if the engine of American public expenditure is to be slowed.

With Mr Shultz at the State Department and Mr Baker at the Treasury, the Reagan administration gives some appearance of taking on the colouring of former types of Republican government: (Mr Shultz served President Nixon; Mr Baker ran President Ford's campaign.) The impression given is that a mood of pragmatism may be developing, very different from the heady atmosphere of the Republican convention in Dallas only four months ago. Is Mr Reagan, who ran against Washington and its conventional style of politics in 1980, himself beginning to shape up (like second-term presidents before him) as an insider, using tried and trusted lieutenants?

Strictly in terms of political continuity, and to make dealing with the Congress easier, this may make sense. But there is more to it than that. As in 1980, Mr Reagan last year courted an element in American political life that is intensely suspicious of Washington, of governmental institutions, and of deals brokered in Congressional committee rooms. This constituency found much to admire in Mr Reagan and still does. Do the recent Cabinet appointments (and Mr Reagan's failure yet to find an office for Mrs Kirkpatrick) imply that he is willing to begin an attempt to teach it a lesson? If so, it will be a politically hazardous task.

Youths in custody

From Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Troup
Sir, I fully endorse Lady Faithfull's views in her letter of December 31 and her plea for a Scottish "reporter" system, but in the meantime we need to look at just what we are achieving with the present arrangements for keeping youths in custody.

From my own experience over the past five years as a member of the board of visitors of a borstal, now a youth custody centre, we are achieving very little, particularly in the way of training, correction or deterrence, and the recidivist rate of about 80 per cent speaks for itself. What we are actually doing under youth custody can best be described as "little more than humane containment".

Building more prisons to improve the lot of the adult prisoner may save the public's conscience, but it does not solve the root problem, which starts with the young offender. What we urgently need is not more prisons but more resources in the form of more people properly trained and qualified to give more attention to the youth in custody.

We have him for only a comparatively short time and the need is to counsel and train him in the social skills of life in order to steer him away from crime rather than leaving him idle to improve his criminal ability from his peers and so eventually graduate to an adult prison.

Surely we have got our priorities wrong?
Yours faithfully,
TONY TROUP,
Bridge Gardens,
Hungerford,
Berkshire,
January 1.

Taxing pension funds

From Mr E. J. W. Buckler
Sir, Whilst recently the suggestion that the income of pension funds should be taxed seems to have receded into the background as more is written about the taxation of lump sum commutation payments and pension contributions, it is important that the Chancellor should not be allowed to feel that the former is an easy option and one that would not cause considerable resentment and opposition at all

levels and not least among his own party supporters.
The income of pension funds is, in effect, the income of the members of those funds - the fund itself is not trading for a profit, but investing the members' funds to provide them with an income towards which they have contributed in one way or another throughout their working lives.

This income of the individual pensioner is then subject to the usual income tax conditions. Thus the income of the fund is already taxed in this way. If the Chancellor proposes to tax the income of the funds at source, then it is entirely reasonable and equitable that all pensions paid from such funds should not be liable to tax. If this were not the case pensioners would be paying double tax on the income from the capital held on their behalf.

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST J. W. BUCKLER,
(Chairman, National Westminster Group Pensioners' Association),
Tara,
Fyresway,
Fairlight,
Hastings,
E. Sussex.

Removing a basic right of appeal

From Professor Graham Zellick and others

Sir, One of the most fundamental principles of any civilised system of law is that a person should be allowed to appeal against the decision of a court of first instance, at least where a question of law is involved. We are, therefore, astonished to read clause 43 of the Administration of Justice Bill, which is due to be given a second reading in the House of Lords on January 14.

The provisions of that clause will take away the citizen's right of appeal to the Court of Appeal from the decision of the High Court refusing an application for leave to apply for judicial review.

Since under the present law all direct challenges to the decisions and actions of ministers, Government departments, local authorities and other public authorities - which almost invariably involve issues of law - must be made through the procedure of judicial review, it is all the more necessary to ensure that the refusal by a single judge of leave to apply for judicial review should be unqualifiedly subject to the appellate process.

Whatever the Government's motive in promoting clause 43, Parliament should have no hesitation in rejecting a wholly unacceptable change in our legal process which will give a further procedural advantage to public authorities in litigation with the citizen.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELICK, Editor,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
P. W. R. DAVIES,
ROBIN COTTERRELL,
J. G. GRIFFITH,
JEFFREY JOWELL,
GEOFFREY MARSHALL,
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Members of Editorial Committee,
Public Law,
11 New Fetter Lane, EC4,
January 9.

Help for infertile

From Mr H. J. Meadows

Sir, I share your concern (leading article, January 7) that there should be no hasty legislation about surrogate motherhood, which needs to be viewed in the whole context of infertility. Infertility on the part of the male has for many years been circumvented by resort to a third party through the practice of AID (artificial insemination by donor). It would be inconsistent to legislate against resort to a third party when the infertility was on the part of the female.

The Warnock report has not gone this far: it has recommended only that payment for surrogate motherhood should be banned. Yet if surrogate motherhood is to be allowed there must surely be some recompense for the inevitable out-of-pocket expenses and discomforts of pregnancy.

What causes probably the greatest offence is the idea of a commercial agency arranging motherhood for profit. Yet there has to be an agency of some kind through which the childless couple can make contact with someone willing to bear them a child.

Statistically the issue of surrogate motherhood for those women whose infertility cannot be overcome by implantation or other techniques must be comparatively small. Yet it needs to be firmly controlled by wise and humane legislation. Perhaps the licensing of a non-profit-making agency, such as the Family Planning Association, would be a possible solution.

Yours truly,
H. J. MEADOWS,
9 Wallis Close,
Monmouth,
Gwent,
January 7.

Strategic defence

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, Lord Kennet's attack on the US Government's strategic defence initiative (in *The Times* of December 19) is misleading and contradictory.

The ultimate logical absurdity is surely his view that should the Soviet Union be denied protection from America's proposed invisible shield in space, "this would amount to a pre-emptive removal of Soviet military capacity, which is not far from an act of war in itself".

How can the creation of a purely defensive anti-missile system possibly even approximate to an act of war? The more so as President Reagan, in a surely unprecedented show of generosity, has offered to share the technology with the USSR, which Lord Kennet records in evident disbelief.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CROZIER,
309 The Linen Hall,
162-168 Regent Street, W1,
December 21.

The Gillick case

From Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Sir, Is the Chief Rabbi the only person to speak for Judaism (December 31) in this vexed question of the ruling on the Gillick case?

Sir Immanuel Jakobovits asserts that the Appeal Court ruling has restored "the supremacy of the Ten Commandments" "Honour your father and your mother" over the medical profession's self-proclaimed guidelines. It has done nothing of the sort.

What is at issue here is what a third party, consulted in confidence, should do when a girl refuses to tell her parents about her sexual activities. Responsible doctors try to persuade young girls (both under

Benefits to Britain of strong pound

From the Director of the British Management Data Foundation

Sir, The present devaluation of the pound is to be welcomed by all those who value the wellbeing of our manufacturing base, upon which the economic future of our country so largely depends. I believe your Financial Editor, in his article of January 7, and Dr Palmer, in his letter of January 9, greatly underestimate the benefits that accrue to the United Kingdom from the present level of the pound.

In addition to making our goods much more competitive and thus giving our manufacturers a most helpful opportunity in which to extend our overseas markets, it will bring in much-needed money to assist the funding of development costs for new products and new equipment.

A strong pound, on the contrary, not only sucks in imports but enables our overseas competitors to sell in this country with big margins, with the result that in effect we are helping to subsidise their research and development for their next generation of products.

Dr Palmer could not be more wrong in his dismal assessment of the effects of extra profits. Good profits for manufacturing industry are essential for a healthy economy and for employment prospects. I believe work forces are becoming much more enlightened about the economic facts of life.

It is a pity that this understanding does not appear to have spread to parts of the academic world. It is of prime importance that we reduce the present high level of imported manufactured goods.

Most of our successful companies put a great deal of added value to their raw materials, so that even if commodity prices, hardened by inflation effects, will be marginal, the Government are to be

applauded for their "hands off" policy towards the exchange rate and it is to be hoped that interest rates can continue to be reduced, even if this means a few points off the pound.

In fact, such a movement, particularly against European currencies, in conjunction with lower interest rates, would be very beneficial for our overall economy.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY COWGILL, Director,
British Management Data Foundation,
Selwyn House,
Cleveland Row,
St James's, SW1,
January 10.

From Mr Anthony Montague Browne

Sir, Declining sterling may be useful to the Chancellor in oil-revenue terms, but the arguments against it are more convincing.

A weak pound is the friend of inefficiency in manufacturing and marketing.

During the post-war West German economic recovery, German exporters complained that they were being crippled by the ever strengthening Deutschmark, but year on year their exports increased; they studied their markets with great care, the quality was good and so was the after-sales service.

Above all, deliveries were made on time.

This - and inflationary pressure - apart, there is something intangibly bad for a country in having a weak currency. It is like flying your flag at half-mast. A strong dollar was a powerful auxiliary to President Reagan in his electoral victory.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANTHONY MONTAGUE BROWNE,
11 St James's Place, SW1,
January 10.

The European option

From Sir Fred Catherwood, MEP for Cambridge and North Bedfordshire (Conservative)

Sir, Aubrey Jones (January 5) forgets that Roosevelt's "New Deal" was done under heavy tariff and quota protection. Trade war, which made frontiers impenetrable, ended in a shooting war to break them down.

The Bretton Woods agreement was a decision to go for growth by opening frontiers and increasing trade, and it led to the biggest increase in trade and wealth in the history of the world - far more impressive than the "New Deal".

But if we are to recover the momentum lost by the two oil shocks, currency instability and inflation, we have to recover the conditions needed for an open trading system. The chief of these conditions is a competitive market sector, whose costs are not disproportionately burdened by public-sector expenditure.

We all want higher public expenditure; the question is whether it can lead recovery or must follow. The consensus in the European Community, strongly supported by our own Government, is that the best way of getting our unemployed back to work, raising our income and our public expenditure, is to remove the remaining barriers

within the Common Market. I've no doubt that this new Commission will soon be putting forward firm proposals.

The Americans have been able to increase public expenditure only because they have a single currency and a unified capital market, which has enabled them to expand by draining all the hard-currency savings of the rest of the world.

So, as well as removing the remaining internal barriers to the movement of goods, we have to match this common capital market and develop as fast as we can a more unified monetary system.

There is of course, the alternative of public-sector expenditure and protectionism, but we are a trading country. The results would be disruptive and therefore disastrous to employment.

The British public decided overwhelmingly in the 1975 referendum and in the two subsequent pairs of Westminster and European elections to go for the European option. That's the way we should get back to full employment, and the sooner the better.

Yours sincerely,
FRED CATHERWOOD,
Shire Hall,
Cambridge,
January 5.

Prescription of drugs

From Professor E. D. Acheson

Sir, Dr R. Charlwood (January 3) referred to a letter I have sent to all doctors about the Government's proposals on the availability of certain medicines under the NHS. He attempted to draw unjustified conclusions from my letter and I shall be grateful for the opportunity to correct the position.

The intention is that, in the categories of medicines covered by the proposals, a carefully selected list of medicines will be retained, which will enable doctors to prescribe on the Health Service for all clinical needs. Consultations are now under way on a provisional list to ensure that the final list contains

an adequate range of effective drugs for this purpose.

I have myself brought together a group of eminent colleagues from the relevant branches of the profession to consider the medicines concerned in detail and to help in finalising the list, on much the lines suggested by Dr Philip Evans (January 2).

I hope therefore that your readers will not be misled into believing that the final list of medicines to be retained will exclude drugs which are clinically essential.
DONALD ACHESON,
Chief Medical Officer,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant & Castle, SE1.

Theatrical memorial

From Mr Peter Lewis

Sir, In his interview with Helen Hayes (December 19) Sheridan Morley rightly points out that very few actresses have ever had theatres named after them, but is incorrect in thinking that Helen Hayes is unique in putting her own building.

Dame Flora Robson also did this. The theatre named after her in Newcastle-upon-Tyne suffered a fate similar to that of the Helen Hayes Theatre in New York many years ago.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LEWIS,
University of Durham,
Department of English,
Elvet Riverside,
New Elvet,
Durham,
December 19.

Frozen Thames

From Mr Clifford Wright

Sir, Sir Roy Strong, in his article about past winters (January 5) was not strictly correct in saying that the last time the Thames was frozen over was in the 1880s, as my wife and I walked over the Thames just above Kingston Bridge in the bad weather of 1962/63. Up to Kingston Bridge navigation was kept going in order to supply Kingston power station with its coal barges.

As far as we know, this was not mentioned either by the BBC or by any newspaper - not even *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD WRIGHT,
19 Sunny Bank,
Epsom,
Surrey,
January 8.

and over 16) to discuss the whole question of sexual activity and contraception with their parents.

Persuasion does not always succeed, however. If the doctor then tells the parents against their daughter's wishes, he runs the risk that she will never consult him again because of the breach of trust - and this could lead not only to unwanted pregnancies and unnecessary abortions but to serious illness remaining untreated.

If he keeps confidence, but refuses to prescribe unless her parents are told, unwanted pregnancies and increased numbers of abortions will be the direct result.

Judaism values life above all things. The Chief Rabbi does not need me to tell him that in Jewish law all laws but three (the prohibi-

tions against incest, murder and idolatry) can be broken in order to save life.

Is it not then self-evident that, however important the Fifth Commandment, the preservation of life takes precedence - both that of the girl with her possible back-street abortion and that of her putative child?

To describe, as Sir Immanuel does, the rise in the abortion rate and unwanted pregnancies (as rightly predicted by the BMA) as "unfortunate" is callous in the extreme, and clearly against the strong life-affirming ethic of Judaism.

I remain, Sir, yours sincerely,
JULIA NEUBERGER,
36 Orlando Road, SW4,
January 8.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 14 1886
Captain Alfred Dreyfus a staff officer in the French Army was arrested in October 1884 for having allegedly communicated confidential documents to a foreign power. He was found guilty, suffered military degradation, and in January 1885 was imprisoned on Devil's Island for a long period, as an occasion for a fresh trial made the Affaire Dreyfus a national controversy. One of the most powerful voices on Dreyfus's behalf was that of Emile Zola epitomised in his challenging letter "J'Accuse" which had a cool reception in *Printemps House Square*. Dreyfus was released in 1889 and he was reinstated in the Army. It is interesting to note that the longest letter ever published in *The Times* was on Dreyfus's behalf, written by Sir Godfrey Lushington of the Home Office, it occupied over a page in the paper on October 13 1886.

THE DREYFUS CASE

"J'Accuse"
M. Zola, in a letter of eight columns of large type in the *Aurore* headed "J'Accuse: Letter to the President of the Republic," adjures M. Faure to act in favour of truth and justice. He denounces Colonel du Paty de Clam as being at the bottom of the Dreyfus prosecution by dictating the *bordereau* to Dreyfus, studying it in a room hung round with looking-glasses, wishing to enter Dreyfus's cell at night with a lantern to startle him out of sleep and surprise him into a revelation of the crime. He speaks of Colonel du Paty de Clam as terrifying Mme. Dreyfus into silence, and he describes her as a victim of an impudent swindle, its famous secrets being nearly all worthless. He speaks of the indictment as a ridiculous document, and of its long commitment on the ground of the interests of national defence as based upon falsehood. He describes Colonel Picquart as the only man who has done his duty and as the man who is selected to be the victim. The *Estimable* inquiry he characterises as one in which the rogues were to be transfigured and the honest men be branded. He argues that the second Court-martial could not be expected to undo the work of the first. He says a Bill had "suggested" the judges by his declaration of the sanctity of the *chancé juger*, and that they judged as though going into battle, without reasoning.

M. Zola concludes thus: "I accuse Lieutenant-Colonel du Paty de Clam of having been the diabolical author of the judicial error - unconsciously, I am ready to believe - and of having then defended his perjured work for twelve years by the most absurd and culpable machinations. I accuse General Mercier of having rendered himself the accomplice, at least by want of firmness, to one of the greatest crimes of the century. I accuse General Billot of having had in his hands certain proofs of the innocence of Dreyfus and of having hushed them up, of having rendered himself guilty of the crime of *lèse-humanité* and *lèse-jurée* with a political object and in order to screen the compromised general staff. I accuse General de Boisdreffe and General Gonse of having made themselves accomplices of the crime of the one, doubting through Clerical passion, the other, perhaps, from that *esprit de corps* which makes the War Office bureaux a sacred unassailable ark. I accuse General de Pellieux and Major Ravary of having made a wicked (*arbitraire*) inquiry for the sake of an inquiry of the most monstrous partiality, of which we have in its report an imperishable monument of naive audacity. I accuse the three experts, Sieurs Belhomme, Fauriol and Courat, of having made a false and fraudulent report, unless a medical examination declares them to be suffering from diseased vision and judgment. I accuse the War Office bureaux of having carried on in the Press, particularly in the *Éclair* and the *Écho de Paris*, an abominable campaign in order to mislead the public and screen their mistake. Lastly, I accuse the first Court-martial of having violated law by condemning an accused man on a single document kept secret, and I accuse the second Court-martial of having, in obedience to orders, screened that illegality by committing in its turn the judicial crime of knowingly acquitting a guilty man."

Effects of pit closures

From Mr R. S. Musgrave

Sir, Can I point out a rather simple geographical fact which those who have fallen for Mr Scargill's rhetoric seem not have noticed? This is that the majority of loss-making pits, including Cortonwood, are within the normal travel-to-work radius of large or medium-sized conurbation. Unemployed coalminers can and do find alternative work without about the same ease of difficulty as anyone else. Thus the proposition that closing a pit destroys a community is untrue far more often than not and the comparison Mr Mills (December 28) makes with the Sutherland Clearances is sheer nonsense.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. MUSGRAVE,
The Boat House,
Ghyll Head,
Windermere, Cumbria.

From Mr Alan Wykes

Sir, When there are more miners working than there are on strike, thus indicating the views (previously unsought) of the majority, will the working miners call the striking miners scabs?
Yours &c,
ALAN WYKES,
382 Tilehurst Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

Dressing down

From Canon Rupert Godfrey

Sir, In the days when dying was a less expensive business the cemetery chapel to which I had perforce to cycle provided for its officiating ministers an undersized black cassock, green with age and mould; a limp damp surplice, victim of rain and sleet; and a tattered black stole which looked as though it had done duty also as a girdle.

Was it in those days perhaps that your funeral director's "shabby" clergy (January 3) first felt the urge to follow suit?

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT GODFREY,
Archway House,
Pyches Road,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.

THE ARTS

The versatile Maria Aitken, still struggling to escape from the image of 'television personality', re-emerges in *Waste* at the Barbican tomorrow: interview by Lynne Truss

Dynamic under the spinsterly wig

"I was awfully pleased that someone at the Royal Shakespeare noticed that I have a streak of Joyce Grenfell in me which nobody had ever exploited on stage before. Playing Miss Gossage in *The Happiest Days of Your Life* at the Barbican has opened up a rich vein of spinsters and eccentrics, and I think it's pretty sensible at 39 to start exploiting that area."

Maria Aitken's attitude to her career is an engaging mixture of pragmatism and enthusiasm, and when she talks about how sensible something is you can assume that she also finds it exciting. So, donning another pair of spectacles and another unbecoming wig ("what I call a dead vole"), she emerges as another willing spinster tomorrow in the RSC revival of Harley Granville-Barker's political tragedy *Waste*.

That is not as simple as it sounds. Because *Waste* was banned from performance in 1907 and later rewritten, the RSC production has been dogged by an editing problem. "Having two versions available means that you not only have the possibility of doing version one or version two but a million permutations in between. And, believe me, we have had a million permutations. Just yesterday I incorporated probably a third of my part new. We've spent eight weeks of rehearsal deciding what we aren't going to say really." This was on the day previews began.

Tall and very slim, she is so thoroughly attractive and funny

that there does seem to be some perversity in her temporarily abandoning the roles which have (on this page) inspired comparisons with Gertrude Lawrence. She does have one obvious affiliation with her role in *Waste*, however. Frances Trevelyan is sister to an MP and exhibits the same kind of fierce loyalty to him that Maria Aitken is known to have for her own politician brother Jonathan. "But Frances is a damn sight more physically helpful to her brother. She's his housekeeper, and I'm totally unhelpful to Jonathan in that way."

Working at the RSC is part of a general expansion in her career, an expansion she attributes to two things. First, after her divorce from Nigel Davenport in 1980, she now lives with Nathan Silver, an American academic "who takes a profound interest in my career and is incredibly encouraging". Second, at the beginning of 1981 she was struck down by thyrotoxicosis which for a while seriously affected her appearance. "I didn't act for a while because I looked so weird. But I discovered I could do other things - some journalism, television and so on." She hosted a chat show series, *Private Lives*, but though she enjoyed it she was not particularly sorry to stop. "They don't seem to me to be a proper full-time job. And I didn't want to become a chat-show host for real. If you do it too much people will walk down Shaftesbury Avenue and say 'Oh look, there's that presenter who thinks she's Hedda Gabler'."

"I've done a lot of television that was jolly mediocre. For years, I mean. I must have done about sixty television plays, but nothing I'm very proud of except I think *Quiet as a Nun*, the original *Jemima Shore*, which was very elegantly done. Since the chat show, however, I haven't been offered a single television play. It's because I'm a 'TV personality'. I think they think it will confuse people. It doesn't bother the theatre at all. The theatre is infinitely tolerant."

Theatre has even been known to forgive failure, but television rarely does, and it is just possible that a less than happy adventure - the comedy series *Poor Little Rich Girl* devised jointly with its co-star Jill Bennett - is still to be lived down. "Nobody could say that it was a great success. It was done when I was really at my illiest. I had my eyes taped, and they had to do retake upon retake. Also I was out of my brains with toxicity, and I talk very oddly in it." But the situation was not helped by the attitude of Granada, "who were extremely cavalier and condescending about the notion of two women having thought of something. I just don't think they took the right kind of trouble over it."

The accusation of "not taking trouble" is, from her, a serious reproach. It was her own capacity for taking pains that led her into another branch of her career as director and impresario. She had suggested to Ian Ogilvie that they could both appear in

Giles Cooper's last play, *Happy Family*, which she was willing to produce. "But when I cast it I suddenly thought I'd be completely wrong in it, that I'd unbalance it and spoil it." Rather than commit the beloved project to an outsider she volunteered to direct it herself - with successful results. "Since then I've directed more and I like it a great deal. I'm extremely careful with actors; I treat them like racehorses because I empathize with their predicament."

She is about to start directing a play for the Old Vic. It is called *After the Ball* ("that rare thing - a new William Douglas-Home") and she starts rehearsals just a week into *Waste*. "I always think it's terribly healthy to come out of a period of wrestling with a part oneself before you start bossing other actors about."

In the impresario line she and Nathan Silver have established a production company, Dramatis Personae, which later in the year will present at Greenwich a new play by Sue Townsend. Past projects have included *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All For You*, co-produced with the Theatre of Comedy, in which she starred as a manic gun-toting nun. "I rather wish it had been entirely our own production, because we would have done it on the fringe. I feel sure that if the critics had discovered it for themselves it would have been rather different. I fell in love with Sister Mary and I long to do her again."



Maria Aitken: "The theatre is infinitely tolerant"

Television
Polishing the myth

The playwright Alan Bleasdale, profiled on last night's *South Bank Show* (ITV), staked his claim in popular imagination with the demand "Gissa job!" Last year this demand was repeated on T-shirts, buttons, placards and newsreel of demonstrations in support of the unemployed.

Although the catchphrase was undoubtedly adopted by many who had never seen *The Boys from the Blackstuff*, the television series about the group of tarmac workers from which it came, it emphasized the accuracy with which Bleasdale hit a nerve in public imagination. His "boys", most of whom cling to jobs by their fingernails and combat the social security system with the flair of the SAS in Borneo, are full-blooded creations of pain, love and humour who inspire understanding because they are portrayed without judgement. This was one of the *South Bank Show*'s most satisfying encounters with an artist, in which the areas explored by Melvyn Bragg's interview were perfectly matched by the director Don Featherstone's film and choice of clips.

Alan Bleasdale is at the interesting stage, now inevitable in the life of a successful artist, where his mythology is becoming capable of independent existence. It is no help that the man has more cute features than a garden gnome: attachment to his native Liverpool; football prowess; awful school reports; ability to inspire schoolchildren; Liverpool accent and tendency to make statements like "I'm tryin' to improve me craft".

Bleasdale anecdotes are encoded by the media - like the tale of his early schoolboy days about a Liverpool schoolboy, which were written when Bleasdale was an English teacher who felt that his semi-literate teenagers deserved better than Janet and John books. Even the elements conspired, on this occasion, to burnish the myth - the sun came out and gave the Liverpool waterfront Canaletto hues of turquoise and russet.

There is an element of false naivety about a television programme which takes part in creating such mythology without acknowledging that it will change the artist. *The South Bank Show* correctly declared itself and revealed the playwright's sensation of helpless discomfort at being seen to succeed. "People almost push you away," he said.

Saturday Live (Channel 4) was a 90-minute entertainment of mixed wave comedy and rock music fronted by the inexhaustible Lenny Henry. There is always a bull-fight thrill about live shows which married well with such subversive humour.

Celia Brayfield

● The Times Bicentenary concert takes place at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday, January 31, given by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under their conductor Sir Georg Solti. The programme consists of the Ninth Symphonies of Shostakovich and Beethoven. A few tickets are still available, but only at £9, £12 and £15.



Jamshid Ashkan: weary cycle of provocation and punishment

Theatre

A Cry With Sewn Lips
Royal Court Upstairs

This Iranian production, by the exiled Mazdak Theatre Group, celebrates the career of Farokhi Yazdi, poet and democrat, first seen having his rebellious lips stitched together by a feudal governor, and undergoing thirty years of political victimization before finally being put to silence in one of Reza Shah's prisons in 1939.

The play, by Iraj Janatani

Ataie (himself a political prisoner under the late Shah), illustrates the cruel dilemma facing the artist in exile: exchanging the censorship gags of his homeland for the deaf ears of the world outside. From its appearance in Sloane Square, it is apparent that Ataie wants to enlist a wider public than that of his fellow exiles, but without making any concessions to the interested British spectator.

Performance is in the Farsi language; and the five-page

synopsis takes it for granted that you know about the 1919 Treaty, the end of the Qajar dynasty, the conflict between the mullahs, the republicans and the Shahs. If any dominant political viewpoint does emerge, it is an indictment of the Pahlavi regime so bitter as to leave you wondering what disagreement these exiles can have with the Ayatollah.

No doubt all these points are cleared up in the text, which seems to be cogently argued and - judging from the response of Iranian spectators - not without its comic side. But, to a non-Farsi speaker, all that emerges is a three-hour naturalistic product of the Shiite martyrdom tradition, which stretches back to the old *ta'zieh* folk dramas.

Farokhi, we learn from the synopsis, escaped from his feudal prison, published a great deal, travelled to Soviet Russia and Germany, and returned home with government pledges of immunity. He was evidently a substantial national figure and a man of action. But in the play he is presented only in the role of victim: even when he gets the

chance to deliver a parliamentary speech, it is only as a prelude to being beaten up.

Jamshid Ashkan, a slight, clean-shaven figure surrounded by a pack of hulking, heavily-moustached bullies, goes through the evening trapped in a wearing cycle of provocation and punishment. He voices forbidden opinions; there is a knock at the door; he is hauled off to prison; and then released with slightly greyer hair for the whole process to begin again. The only thing that changes is the appearance of his oppressors, beginning with a Governor straight out of the *Jabbari Nights* who combines judicial business with a massage session, and ending with police colonels who strut about with silver-tipped canes and riding-crops.

Ataie's production impresses Farokhi on the memory as a hero of the human conscience, and commands respect for Mazdak's dedication to the same cause. But I fear that its title is all too accurate.

Irving Wardle

Dance

Swan Lake
Covent Garden

Saturday evening marked the debut of a new Odette/Odile in the Royal Ballet's production of *Swan Lake*. Still ranked as a soloist, Ravenna Tucker is among the most popular of the younger generation of dancers and has won a great deal of well-deserved praise for her clean, bright dancing and the gentle warmth of her personality in a wide variety of roles.

But I found her first attempt as the Swan Queen something of a disappointment, a reminder of the vast gulf which lies between a soloist of quality

and a ballerina in the true sense of the word. Technically she danced with ease, though never with brilliant force. She is rather stiff in the upper back and arms, and did not always use her head well, especially in the white acts.

What surprised me were the smudged endings to some of her phrasing and a lack of the usual clarity in her dancing. Part of the blame for this must lie with the conductor, Howard Williams, who managed to draw some really wonderful sounds from the orchestra but on the other hand set tempi which nearly succeeded in sabotaging some of the solos. Certainly, no blame can be attached to Tucker's partner Jay

Jolley, a model of secure and sympathetic support.

What I principally missed from her interpretation, however, was passion and allure, or any feeling of real drama. To be fair, there were signs of a breakthrough in the last act, but on the whole her characterization flowed sweetly and evenly from start to finish, with little sense of the tragic love-story at the centre of the story.

Among the other dancers, Nicola Roberts gave a good account of her solo in the pas de trois, and Deirdre Eyden danced gloriously as a swan. The production itself looks very tired.

Judith Cruickshank

Mystical moment

Canino/Ballista
Barbican/Radio 3

It occurs to me that readers with average musical tastes may feel the joys of daily Stockhausen broadcasts to be not unmixed. Stay with it a little longer, though, for the BBC deities of "Music and Machines" have arranged quite a finale, *Mantra*, a 70-minute aural odyssey for two pianists, their woodblocks, crotales, Steinways and ring-modulators, was Friday's offering: *Stimmung* and the gigantic *Hymnen* follow.

There is an obvious "way in" to *Mantra*: its title and its composition date, 1970. That brief period when Stockhausen (and half of musical modernism) was entranced by Indian mysticism was also when the word *mantra* was most widely understood. It referred to a little phrase, provided by the guru, which believers chanted incessantly to bring them to higher levels of consciousness.

In Stockhausen's *Mantra*, however, he is both guru and pupil. He provides the mantra: 13 notes, each of them also associated with a certain rhythmic articulation. Then he does the meditating, through 13 cycles which explore each of the 13 original elements. But that is only half of it. The sound of the pianos is modified electronically, so that its timbre changes in accordance with the relationship between the pianists' notes and a pattern of 13 sine-waves. That pattern, of

course, is based on the mantric too.

What reads like (and is) a highly planned piece of musical engineering is also, incredibly, a mystical and revelatory experience. Much of the music has the atmosphere of a Far Eastern religious ceremonial, with jangling percussion ringing in the various rites. This is reinforced by a side-effect of the ring-modulation: it lends to the morphose piano sound into a kaleidoscopic impression of bells, gamelan-like in its seemingly unstructured timelessness.

But these meditative passages are interspersed with more violent episodes. In remarkable antiphonal exchanges the players volley sharply-articulated musical motifs across the platform, sometimes culminating in high force. At crucial points electronic intervention instils a sense of urgency, a hectic throbbing disruptive proceedings early on, for instance, while an "alarm bell" rouses the players to produce their cadenza.

Bruno Canino and Antonio Ballista gave the most assured and committed performance one could imagine. Separated by 30 yards, they coordinated superbly, their pacing was masterly, their stamina impressive and their touches of comedy were accomplished with an Italian sense of theatre. Good lighting and definitely hi-fi sound projection (John Rushby-Smith) helped to make this a *Mantra* worth repeating.

Richard Morrison

Park Lane Group
Purcell Room

This year's Park Lane Group series, bereft of the usual focus of attention to be meted out by the orchestra, has been stolen by Stockhausen across town, came to its close on Friday bereft also of a promised premiere by Peter Paul Nash. But there was plenty to stimulate in both the early-evening two-piano recital by Claire and Antoinette Cann and in the later recital which the violinist, Madeleine Mitchell, shared with the Artemis Horn Quartet.

The Misses Cann are a forceful duo, who did not disdain to tackle the horrendous spurge of notes in Ravel's own arrangement of *La Valse*; yet it is difficult to regard this transcription as anything but a pale echo of the original, without the purely pianistic qualities of, say, Stravinsky's arrangement of his *Rite of Spring*. Stravinsky's own two-piano writing in the Concerto of 1935 is brilliantly effective, but I fear it needs a sharper edge and more rhythmically straight-

forward inflexion that these players found.

They seemed intent on finding the expressive nuances beneath the surface and, while in the Stravinsky they probed without success, in Shostakovich's blustering little Concertino, Op. 94, they hit a much better style. Full of energy and exuberance.

In the evening the Artemis Horn Quartet offered Nicolai Tchaikovsky in place of Nash, and Tippett's Sonata. Its admirable burbling was deliciously atmospheric in the variations of traditional horn calls, but the marvellously subtle evocations of the slow movement were not very steadily projected.

There was less sense of fun but more poise in the violin playing of Madeleine Mitchell; her reading of Messiaen's early Theme and Variations was oddly angular, but her account of the Debussy Sonata has certainly loosened up since last I heard it, and it contained some beautiful moments without quite convincing as a whole. Bernard Stevens's Sonata of 1963 was unutterably grey.

Nicholas Kenyon

Concerts

Radu Lupu
Queen Elizabeth Hall

It is always good news when Radu Lupu is back in town. Later this month he will be helping to celebrate the eighth birthday of Sir Michael Tippett with the Mozart K488 Piano Concerto. For his solo recital he chose an ostensibly heavyweight programme of late Beethoven sonatas and Schumann's Fantasy in C.

I had forgotten quite how much attending a Lupu recital was like being part of a group meditation. It requires a certain self-pacing in listening, a certain tuning-in to the mantras of his particular musical understanding - and then, for those who have ears to hear...

Both the Beethoven Op 109 and 110 respond well enough to this treatment, although such a wholesale application of pianistic transcendentalism does not tell the whole story. There were times when one missed a sense of active engagement, when Mr Lupu's distancing, became rather too much like the vision at the wrong end of a zoom lens.

But the lasting memory of this performance was one of quiet illumination. It will be difficult to forget the opening - as if a vast mind were stretching itself after sleep - and the shadowy left-hand delineation of an Andante shaped by exquisite pianistic mezza-voci.

More illumination followed, too, as it invariably does when Op 110 follows Op 109. The reflecting melodic and harmonic thirds, the brightening of tonality, all were most sensitively unfolded as Mr Lupu linked, ending in beginning. Here, putting aside the slight annoyances of over-exploited time-lapses between the two hands, their strange double monologue in the opening movement was finely poised.

This tranquillity had a keen sense of genesis as well as revelation in its inner momentum, as Lupu's light, suspended fingerwork came into its own, with near-weightless chords ready at any time to spring into their divisions. The passage to the final fugue provided an opportunity for him to set up, as so well he can, a virtuoso game of testing the very nature of sound. What would have seemed a somewhat self-absorbed exercise again found its *raison d'être* in Lupu's equally idiosyncratic yet fully integrated outworking of the fugue itself.

Lupu's Schumann will, I suspect, have been more widely acceptable. As he leant back in his chair, the free-wheeling fantasy of his own imagination dovetailed nicely with Schumann's, recreating with deft physical spontaneity its celebration of the high fantastical.

Hilary Finch

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10	BUILDING AND ROADS	
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13	Waters Bros	
14	Meads	
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16	Eastcliff	
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20	Beggs & Brice	
21	FOODS	
22	Hillside	
23	Bevan	
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25	Fitch Lovell	
26	Deo	
27	Nurkin & Parnock	
28	Tesco	
29	Argill	
30	MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT	
31	BL	
32	Woolhead (London)	
33	Auto Products	
34	David (Gordon)	
35	Arlington Motor	
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37	Br Car Auctions	
38	Armstrong	
39	AE	
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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS

Stocks and Shares

Stock	Share	Price	Chg	On	Off	Net

SHORTS Under Five Years	Share	Price	Chg	On	Off	Net

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	Share	Price	Chg	On	Off	Net

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	Share	Price	Chg	On	Off	Net

UNDATED	Share	Price	Chg	On	Off	Net

INDEX-LINKED	Share	Price	Chg	On	Off	Net

BREWERIES

Capitalization

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Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Begin, Today. Dealings End, Jan 25. Contango Day, Jan 28. Settlement Day, Feb 4.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	On	Off	Net

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Efficiency - a better tonic than tax cuts

The pound's free fall has upstaged Britain's battle of the Budget, and quite right too. For the potential consequences of sterling within sight of dollar parity, and at a trade-weighted exchange rate about 30 per cent lower than in early 1981, are far more important than the precise method chosen to distribute a billion or two spare pounds during 1985-86.

And the dispute over this distribution has become so deeply polarized that anyone who favours tax cuts is pilloried as a right-wing beast who enjoys seeing unemployed families starve, while anyone who suggests repairing Britain's infrastructure to pre-empt expensive future reconstruction must equally be a dangerous leftist.

This caricature of what passes for economic debate in Britain is typical in particular of the preference for macroeconomic over-simplification rather than nitty-gritty microeconomic analysis. A furious exchange of economic similes and metaphors promoting public investment or tax cuts (of which we are likely to suffer more in Tuesday's parliamentary debate) is not terribly helpful to decision-making.

For public investment embraces a wide variety of different activities, and different tax cuts can have a variety of effects. What would be much more useful for the British economy, that wretched battleground, would be the development of methods of managing the public sector which inform us of the cost efficiency of different items of expenditure, be it on staff, maintenance, machines and buildings, along with detailed analysis of the tax system which would likewise give us better information on the effect on work incentives, labour supply and demand of specific changes in individual taxes.

It is the consequences of inefficient management that should be the real message of the analysis by the National Economic Development Office of Britain's infrastructure. Accumulating maintenance bills are not only the consequence of spending cuts, but also of bad past decisions on construction methods - the kind that have ingrained in the large section of the British public that elected the Thatcher Government a huge disbelief in state planning. But the state will have to go on planning quite a large share of the economy, even if the Government manages to accelerate its privatization programme; and that requires much faster acceleration in management reform of the public sector.

For Mr Nigel Lawson, this implies a Treasury equipped to evaluate public expenditure in economic terms, if he is to win proper control of spending - as well as his argument for tax cuts. The lot of a taxpayer is never easy, because his opponents are adept at seizing on particular items of public expenditure (Kidney dialysis machines for example) and comparing their life-saving potential with the dispersed personal spending power to be gained from the distribution of the equivalent sum in general tax cuts. This is much easier than facing up to questions of resource management within the public sector.

The only sensible counter to this is to improve, visibly, the mechanisms by which spending and tax decisions are taken, bringing them together to the same point in the political calendar, so that the outcome appears to owe more to logic and less to cabinet lottery. It is also to get away

from generalizations about the impact of tax changes on demand to supply-side detail. This is not the Treasury's strong suit. But it is not obvious, to put it mildly, that it can hope to win the political argument with this kind of verbiage, offered in its latest massive to the construction lobby. "The impact of increases in public investment on demand would only be temporary and the net increase in employment would rapidly be eroded by interest rates and inflation both higher than if taxes had been cut instead."

Instead of such debatable theoretical arguments, the Treasury would be better employed both examining and explaining how a rearranging of family taxation, or of national insurance, might expand employment and achieve a better fit between the seekers and providers of existing jobs. There are, however, two immediate macroeconomic arguments it would be fair for the Chancellor to deploy, if hideous market sensitivities about the exchange rate would permit.

The first goes to the spirit, if not to the letter, of the debate. Vague talk of "infrastructure spending" is, for some, merely a cover for the same old plea for general reflation. Those employing this subterfuge should note that the foreign exchange markets control, even at present levels of public borrowing, while industry has received a substantial stimulus through sterling's fall.

At this stage in a sterling slide, the air always becomes thick with complaints from losers (like travel firms) and industrial complaints of higher raw material costs. Since the gainers remain discreetly silent, it is worth pointing out that two-thirds of industry's costs consist of labour, which is priced in sterling; thus the initial effect of a lower exchange rate is good for the trading sector of the British economy. It causes real labour costs to fall, and offers exporters the choice between maintaining their foreign prices and raising profit margins, or cutting foreign prices in pursuit of bigger sales.

Which leads to a second argument for tax cuts in this year's Budget. For if British industry cannot grab a bigger share of the rise in personal spending power at today's exchange rates, it may as well abandon hope of anything except a siege economy. None of which means that expansion via depreciation is a sensible strategy for Britain, as almost any speech by Mrs Thatcher's Treasury ministers back in the heady days of 1979-80 could be found to agree. Leaving aside the financial difficulties, it is dangerously inflationary. Even if a falling exchange rate has had less impact than was experienced in the 1970s, it still threatens a cost spiral, in which wage negotiators attempt to claw back lost purchasing power.

Nor, of course, is competitive devaluation a possible route towards higher output for the world as a whole. Casting the argument wider still, it is exceedingly doubtful whether an international system in which the pound can swing from \$2.40 to \$1.60, back up to \$2.40 and down to \$1.12, all in a single decade, offers the best conditions for economic growth and prosperity; but that, as they say, is another story.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Labour plans tax penalties to repatriate foreign investment

By Our Economics Editor

Heavy tax penalties designed to achieve "the repatriation of a substantial amount of the portfolio investment has left this country since the abandonment of exchange controls" were proposed by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow chancellor, in a speech at Middlesbrough yesterday.

Mr Hattersley detailed plans aimed at repatriating up to £20 billion invested abroad through a new system of exchange controls. Labour proposes to reintroduce controls if it wins the next election. But Mr Hattersley acknowledged that it would be "literally impossible" simply to reintroduce the type of exchange controls which operated in Britain between 1947 and 1979, which he accepted had "virtually no effect on the bulk of currency transactions."

Furthermore, Mr Hattersley predicted that "immense

amounts of money would flow out of Britain" at the threat of the reintroduction of old-style exchange controls.

Mr Hattersley therefore proposed "a more comprehensive scheme for the retention of British capital", based on the withdrawal of fiscal privileges from institutions and individuals who did not conform to the Government's investment criteria. The main criteria would be: 1. Limit the foreign element in financial institutions' assets to no more than 5 per cent (based on his calculations of the average ratio in 1979) compared with today's figure of about 15 per cent. 2. Invest a proportion of total funds in a new national investment bank, which will offer "low interest investment" to the trading sector for the economy, with the aid of a government subsidy.

The following tax advantages would be withdrawn from institutions and individuals who did not conform to the criteria:

- Occupational pension funds would lose their tax exemptions, with employers' rights to deduct contributions.
- Charities would lose their exemptions.
- Life assurance companies would lose the right to issue "qualifying policies".
- Investment trusts would lose their special capital gains tax rate, with unit trusts, their shares would be treated as "foreign securities".
- Big companies with large portfolios would also find their shares treated as "foreign securities".

Mr Hattersley said that the overseas direct investment plans of business "will be properly supervised by those

institutions which are set up to oversee the conduct of the trading sector" and that the Inland Revenue would be given powers to deal with "calculated evasion".

The combined holdings of insurance funds and pension funds in overseas securities had risen, he said, from £4.1 billion at the end of 1979 to £26.8 billion by the end of 1983, while the value of overseas properties had risen from £1 billion to £4.2 billion.

Mr Hattersley argued that the scheme, planned to produce a "massive repatriation" of this capital, was almost certain to put upward pressure on the pound, which he considered "wholly desirable", because the next Labour government would have to "risk additional imports" through running a "high employment economy".

IN BRIEF

P&O terms due today

The terms of the merger between P&O and Sterling Guarantee Trust, both headed by Sir Jeffrey Sterling, will be announced this morning. The deal will broadly mean the exchange of one P&O share, suspended at 325p when the merger was announced last Wednesday, for every five Sterling Guarantee, suspended at 74p.

Although the one-for-five terms are out of line with the suspension prices of the shares, stockbrokers report keen buying interest in P&O, and the shares are widely tipped to rise strongly when trading restarts today.



Sir Jeffrey Sterling: Merger terms today

More Citibanks

Citibank, the American banking group, plans to boost its branch network in Britain from 50 to 250 outlets in an attempt to take on the high street banks.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, chief investment manager of the National Coal Board pension fund, leaves tomorrow to join Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron International, based in Los Angeles.

Pound 'too high'

Big trade deficits with Japan and Germany suggest the pound is overvalued against the yen and Deutsche mark, says the stockbroking firm of Phillips & Drew. And "there is little evidence as yet to suggest that trade flows with the US point to sterling as fundamentally out of line with the dollar."

Savings target

Figures released yesterday confirm that the Department of National Savings is on course for its year-end funding target of £3 billion. In the first nine months of the financial year, took in £2.4 billion.

US NOTEBOOK
Disinflation fuels Fed criticism

The weekend report that the producer (wholesale) price index rose only 0.1 per cent in December underlines the degree to which disinflation is now built into the American economy.

Other indicators of disinflation have been the persistent weakness of commodity prices - futures are now approaching their low point of 1982 - and the very slow growth of the US economy in the second half of 1984.

Precious metals have been weak, with predictions of gold at \$295 an ounce, along with forecasts of less than \$25 a barrel for crude oil in the spring.

Mr Paul Volcker announced on Thursday that there had been good progress in the fight against inflation and the stock market jumped more than 20 points on the expectation that the Federal Reserve would feel less called upon to restrain money growth.

No one is delighted with the manner in which the US central bank has played a role in bringing inflation down. The Administration is certainly not as joyful. The rate of growth of the economy in the second half of 1984 - about 2 per cent a year in real terms - has harmed the government's prospects of raising sufficient revenue to start making a hole in the budget deficit.

Farmers and American manufacturers are also upset about the way disinflation works. There is a strong and interesting relationship between the rate of growth of the money stock - M1 - and non-dollar currency futures. Slow money growth produces weak non-dollar currency futures and strong money growth produces strong non-dollar currency futures. The Fed-induced disinflation, therefore, hurts farmers and domestic manufacturers.

One could argue that disinflation, by producing a strong dollar, has been the major contributor to the so-called "de-industrialization" of America. Slow money growth has produced a strong dollar in the last half of 1984, combined with a weak US domestic market growth and a sharp fall in commodity prices. This is not nice.

For the time being, the Fed officials are trying to push the blame for this discomfort - in the farming areas one could describe the situation as painful - on to Congress and the Administration, arguing that the problems are all due to the budget deficit. This was a theme developed by Dr Martin Feldstein before he left the chairmanship of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The Fed is also taking some modest steps to accelerate the growth of money by increasing the level of the adjusted monetary base. It is possible that the US central bank will be able to contain the criticism of its policies by gradually letting out more cash, hoping that this will boost economic expansion and bring about a gradual weakening of the dollar.

Maxwell Newton

CJR and Royal Bank fix sale details

By Our City Staff

Final details were hammered out yesterday of Charterhouse J. Rothschild's £150 million sale of its merchant banking arm, Charterhouse Japhet, to the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The meetings, described as "dusting the i's and crossing the t's" by one of the participants, will be followed by a formal announcement of the sale terms this morning.

A rights issue, probably one-for-four to raise around £120 million will follow from the Royal Bank. Mr Sid Proctor, the bank's chief executive, first approached CJR about acquiring Charterhouse Japhet towards the end of last year. For CJR, headed by Mr Jacob Rothschild, the Charter-

house Japhet sale will represent the second major disposal in recent months. The group sold its 24.9 per cent stake in Hambro Life to BAT Industries for £165 million, having built up the stake for £125 million.

Mr Rothschild merged his own RIT & Northern Group with the Charterhouse group as recently as December 1983. A later merger with Hambro Life, headed by Mr Mark Weinberger, fell through.

Following the disposal of Charterhouse Japhet, CJR is expected to be renamed J. Rothschild & Co.

CJR shares were suspended at 116p on Friday, those of the Royal Bank of Scotland at 250p.

Posgate upset at report

Mr Ian Posgate, the suspended Lloyd's underwriter who became known as Goldfinger because of his success in the insurance market, will be writing to Lloyd's today after a newspaper report that he faces expulsion from Lloyd's for life.

Mr Posgate said yesterday that he was appalled by such press comments and he considered them highly prejudicial to his case. He would consider any comment by him on the hearing to be "in contempt".

The report suggested that a Lloyd's disciplinary tribunal had found him guilty of having

an undisclosed interest in a foreign bank. Any expulsion has to be ratified by the full Council of Lloyd's.

An appeal by Mr Posgate was unlikely, the report suggested.

Mr Posgate said yesterday that he was appalled by such press comments and he considered them highly prejudicial to his case. He would consider any comment by him on the hearing to be "in contempt".

Dunlop puts last touches to rescue

By Ian Griffiths

Financial advisers to Dunlop Holdings met over the weekend to add the final touches to the £142m financial reconstruction package for the ailing tyres and industrial products group.

The main proposals have now been agreed by the board and the 47 banks propping up the group, which has debts of £430m.

Sir Michael Edwards, the chairman, last week unveiled the main details at a meeting of institutional investors in an effort to convince the City to back the new-look Dunlop. The reconstruction and Sir Michael's outline of his strategy were received with cautious optimism.

Many fund managers were not immediately convinced about subscribing to what is being seen as a venture capital project.

A formal announcement of the terms of the reconstruction is expected tomorrow. This will reveal that the supporting banks are to convert £70m of their debts into equity. Of this, £40m will be in ordinary shares, and £30m in redeemable preference shares.

Another £72 million of new money will be raised through a rights issue and the placing of shares with institutional investors.

Telecom to hold 'meet the shareholders' briefings

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

British Telecom is planning to hold regional meetings to keep its 2 million new shareholders informed of the corporation's progress. Those who turn up will be given presentations by the management, and have the chance to ask questions about how the business is developing.

Senior British Telecom executives are concerned about how and where to hold its annual shareholders' meeting.

considering the size of their shareholders' register, which is several times bigger than that of any other company.

The annual meeting is expected to be held in September. The corporation has been given legal advice that the meeting must be held at a single venue. This suggests the otherwise attractive idea of using Telecom's own video-conferencing service to link up by television a series of separate meetings

Beefeater to open in Belgium

Whitbread, Britain's third largest brewer, is soon to start opening fast-food restaurants across the Channel as a result of a tie up with the Belgian retailing group GB-Inno-BM.

A £5 million joint venture gets underway in March when Whitbread's Beefeater chain opens in Brussels.

Later, the first of 20 Quick hamburger restaurants planned for Britain over the next four years will make its debut in central London. Quick is part of GB-Inno-BM, whose interests span department stores, petrol stations and DVD, with over 100 outlets in France, Belgium, Germany and Italy.

Explaining reasons for the link with the overseas group, Whitbread said: "They have a lot of experience of fast food in Europe."

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		CURRENCIES	
Friday's close and change on week		Friday's close and change on week	
FT Ind Ord	968.3 (+27.3)	£ \$1.1297 (-0.0241)	
FT-A All Share	602.05 (+16.58)	£ DM 3.5582 (-0.0957)	
FT Govt Securities	80.95 (-0.18)	£ Sfr 2.9785 (-0.0531)	
FT-SE 100	1,248.6 (+34.0)	£ FF 10.8930 (-0.2769)	
Bargains	34.675	£ Yen 268.40 (-6.04)	
Dataseq USM	105.82 (+2.18)	£ Index 71.3 (-1.6)	
New York		New York:	
Dow Jones	1,218.09 (+33.13)	£ \$1.1185	
Tokyo		£ DM 3.1690	
Nikkei Dow	11,812.24 (+254.18)	£ Index 145.6	
Hong Kong			
Hang Seng	1,352.89 (+90.39)		
Amsterdam	188.8 (+1.7)		
Sydney AO	730.5 (+8.1)		
Frankfurt			
Commerzbank	1,142.7 (+30.0)		
Brussels			
General	163.60 (+3.07)		
Paris CAC	190.0 (+8.6)		
GOLD		INTEREST RATES	
London fixing:		London:	
am \$304 pm \$304.25		Bank Base: 10 1/2 %	
close \$303.75-\$304.25	(£298.75-299.25)	3-month interbank: 10% - 10 1/2 %	
New York:		3-month Treasury bills: 10% - 10 1/2 %	
Comex \$299.50		buying rate	
		US:	
		Prime Rate: 10 7/8 %	
		Federal Funds: 8 1/2 %	
		3-month Treasury Bill: 7 7/8 - 7 7/8 %	
		Long bond yield: 10 1/2 % - 10 1/2 %	

Barclays Bank Interest Rates.

BASE RATE

Barclays Bank PLC

announces that with effect from the close of business on 11th January 1985, their Base Rate was increased from 9 3/4% to 10 1/2%.

This new rate also applies to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited.

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Sterling Floating Rate Notes

On Friday 11th January, E.F. Hutton added a comprehensive list of Sterling FRNs to the two hundred eurodollar FRNs the Company trades. E.F. Hutton is the first trading house outside the UK merchant banks to make a major commitment to this sector.

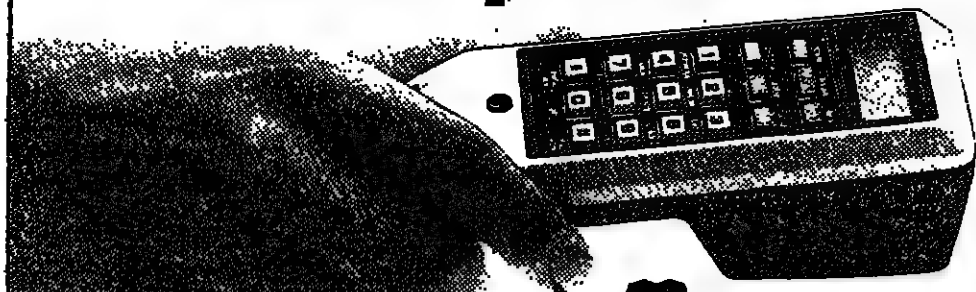
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Bank of Ireland

TEMPUS

Gilt-edged: Bank unwinds controls as prices fall

"The more this market stays the same, the more it changes". was how one wag in the gilt-edged market chose to sum up last week's tumultuous events. Sterling collapsed to record lows of under \$1.12 and base rates rose one point to 10% per cent. Gilt crashed, even after money supply figures for banking December which seemed at first to be fairly acceptable.

In a sense, the wag was correct. Casual observers of the gilt market could be forgiven for assuming that this week's events represented a re-run of the crisis of confidence during the summer. Then interest rates were forced up nearly three points to 12 per cent. In theory the resolution of the crisis turns on the extent to which the authorities sanction a further round of base rate increases in order to restore confidence. Two points? Three points?

More subtle commentators, however, are convinced that much has changed since the summer. A temporary rise in rates may simply not prove adequate to correct the malaise creeping over market sentiment. American interest rates were rising in the summer, now they are falling. The industrial situation was very threatening; now the miners' strike appears to be crumbling. Oil prices were weakening in June and July. Last week, the cold weather pushed spot prices ahead, but sterling still collapsed.

Gilt yields, however, are still sailing in hope. The curve is very flat. High coupon 25-year gilts are now yielding a point less than comparable coupon shorts, implying great confidence about the outcome of the market crisis.

The authorities are clearly far less sanguine. Intervention in the foreign exchange markets last week was probably minimal. Tactics also altered in the money markets. In the run-up to the December money supply figures, the authorities resolutely took out the shortages early each day; last week, they were more laggardly.

The Government Broker was active immediately after the money supply figures announcement and sold out his

relatively unpopular long-tap. Exchequer 9% per cent 1998. But he failed to keep his Friday appointment and hence avoided pricing the market to any extent. Perhaps the authorities still feel that the domestic counterpart, in yield terms, to the external devaluation, has still not gone far enough.

Nevertheless, time is not on their side when it comes to the funding programme. In addition, the renewal and doubling of the bank's sale and repurchase agreement over gilts, also announced last week, suggests that any semblance of monetary control is now quite simply being abandoned.

Sterling lending is still accelerating, confirming the impression elsewhere - higher equity and house prices, plus booming retail trends - of very buoyant credit demand. But the sterling advances level of £1.4 billion by the clearing banks in banking December is a formidable number for the market to absorb. It is roughly equal to the whole of last month's lending by the entire banking system, including the Issue Department's holding of commercial bills - and it implies that the whole lending level has shifted upwards to a fresh platform.

The strains on the banking system are apparent already. A £1 1/2 billion sale and repurchase facility was available to the clearing banks in banking December, and £1 billion was utilized, mainly by swapping ECGD promissory notes with the Bank of England.

Yet the authorities in banking December, by contrast, only managed to sell some £400 million of debt. They will need to sell substantially more in the next few months to prevent the monetary aggregates shooting out of sight.

The need to "overfund" is clear. PSBR is overshooting, because the miners' strike has dragged on beyond its scheduled termination date, for Government accounting purposes, in December. The £2 1/2 billion target figure looks unsustainable. Even using Bank of England data gives an annualized growth rate in bank lending of £16 billion.

But overfunding will aggravate the crisis in the money

markets. The bill mountain is a statistical proxy for endemic money market shortages, according to the authorities. Earlier overfunding efforts, these were aimed at limiting the damage to the money market of uncontrolled bank lending.

Bearing in mind that the central government borrowing requirement up to April should be low - say £2 billion - and assuming that some £4 billion of gilt sales may be needed to contain the upward growth in £M3, then money markets face a net drain, pro forma, of £2 billion.

The authorities therefore face problems in selling a huge volume of debt against a background of deteriorating fundamentals. When the institutions are starting to place funds abroad again, this factor alone should give yields an upward push.

The way in which they have chosen to square this problem with the money market, of course, could complete the demolition. The £2 billion gilt facility offered to the clearing banks differs significantly from past arrangements. The banks are merely asked to exercise "suitable restraint" in buying more gilts, rather than being virtually proscribed from buying Government stock.

From the Bank's point of view, it provides access to paper which can be used to relieve money market shortages. But more fundamentally, the Bank seems to be returning to the point from which it departed some 12 years ago, when it distinguished between liquid assets, for which it was prepared to be buyer of last resort, like Treasury bills, and gilts. Lack of official support for gilts effectively demonstrated that it is removed the equivalent in deposits from the system.

But last week's actions by the authorities effectively provide official support for the gilt-market once again. This could have the effect of liquefying a huge bulk of Government stock, with more or less incalculable consequences for deposit growth and funding efforts.

It is too early to assume that a rise in base rates will do the trick this time around.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Aika Investment Trust, Control Securities, Gray Economics, Ferguson Industrial Holdings, Fland Mines Group. Final: Blue Arrow, Body Shop Int'l, Brint Invest, Fleming Claverhouse Inv. Trust, London Scottish Finance Corp., Warner Holidays.

TOMORROW - Interim: Bromsgrove Gaming and Machine, Gnome Photographic Products, Group Investors, H Samuel, Sidney C Banks, Westpool Invest, Trust. Final: Countryside Properties, First Leisure Corp, A Guinness and

Son, Heaviness Brewery, Kenning Motor Group.

WEDNESDAY - Interim: ASB Research, Biotechnology Investments, Centrovital Estates, Fleming Technology Investment Trust, Final: Bett Bros, County Prop. Group, Glass Glover Group, Kennings Estates, Raeburn Inv. Trst., Southern Business Leasing, Standard Secs.

THURSDAY - Interim: Country and New Town Props., Davy Corp, Dixons GRP, Dowty, Independent

Investment, MFI Furniture, Norbin Electronics, Northamber, Orange Free State Group, Gold Mining, Transvaal Group, Gold Mining, Final: Elands Rand Gold Mining, Electronic Machines, Oakwood Group, SGB Group, S and W Berisford, 8th African Land, Exploration, Southern Hodge, Vast Reels, Exploration, and Mining, Western Deep Levels.

FRIDAY - Interim: Alanto Assets Trst., William Somerville and Son, Final: Abbey Panels, Gestetner.

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Brewers offer cheer to investors if hotel boom begins to fade

One of the most closely scanned company announcements this week is likely to be the annual results of Trusthouse Forte, the hotels and catering group. But in the absence of some unforeseen disaster, the figures themselves will be less interesting than what Lord Forte has to say about the outlook for 1985.

The reason is that 1984 is known to have been very good for the hotels sector, especially in the case of operators like THF with a strong presence in London. The dollar's might have filled the capital with American tourists last summer.

The exchange rate will inevitably dominate THF's immediate prospects. Demand for rooms in London's better hotels was bumping up near capacity last year. In the absence of any noticeable increase in supply, rates are likely to firm in sterling terms. Trusthouse also has one of the biggest provincial chains, the Post House. The overcrowding in the capital will encourage tourists to move out and

about round the country more quickly, where there is more chance of a room.

That happy situation will do much to ensure another advance for THF in the current year, possibly to £130 million or £130 million. But clouds are also starting to gather.

Most prominent among these is the US market, where Trusthouse is well represented in the names of Travelodge, Excelsior, Exclusive and Viscourt. Rising living standards in the US have stimulated the holiday market, but this has been more than matched by aggressive hotel building programmes.

A relapse in the dollar may bring some trade back to the US. What is more certain is that unless the pound falls to 50 or 60 cents in the near future, there is not a lot more American tourists likely to be sucked across Europe to the level at which THF operates. It may tend instead to come from cautious first-timers and the

luckless brigade. Neither is a high spender.

At their present 153p, THF shares yield an historic 1.7 per cent, a return that leaves little margin for error, even after the dividend has been raised on Wednesday. This makes it tempting to scan the leisure sector for other possibilities.

The obvious alternatives are the brewery groups. Contrary to all the headlines about flat beer markets, the leading companies seem to be moving towards a period of sustained growth.

Beer sales have indeed been static. But this must be seen against a substantial rise in the real price of a pint, which has increased in cash terms far faster than the rate of inflation. There has been an important shift from bitter to the more profitable lager, which now accounts for 40 per cent of the beer market. This is at the root of Allied-Lyons' reorganization last week of its British brewery operation.

But the real reason for believing that there is more potential in breweries than

hotels now is that the breweries, so long the most conservative and staid of industries, have been stealing the hoteliers' clothes and at the same time reshaping the face of the public house.

Huge refurbishment programmes have helped to boost the proportion of wines, spirits and soft drinks sold, all of which produce high returns on capital. After several false starts in the 1960s and 1970s, the breweries have struck the chord which turns pubs into entertainment centres.

The battle between Allied and Bass will be a fascinating one. Bass is ahead of the game, as reflected in the premium rating on its shares. The market has yet to be convinced that Allied is nimble enough to respond. Mr Derek Palmer, Bass's chairman, clearly has the bit between his teeth.

At 494p, on a p/e ratio of 12.1 and a yield of 3.8 per cent, it should be more rewarding even than the redoubtable THF in the next year.

William Kay

USM REVIEW

Video film maker comes to market

Hitchens Harrison and Co., the medium-sized stockbroker which can trace its history to 1803, has become a miniature issuing house.

It is on the verge of completing its fourth USM flotation and number five could be launched soon.

On Thursday, dealings are due to start in the shares of Spafax Television Holdings, which provides videos for a wide range of companies. The shares have been placed at 60p.

Spafax follows Lorin, a maker of electric switches; Fergabrook, a toy distributor; and, probably the most successful of them all, the Kennedy Brook restaurant chain.

Crusts, a restaurant and wine bar business, which looks like being developed in the Kennedy line, is the next on Hitchens' menu.

Hitchens, which has traded under the same name in the City longer than any other stockbroker, has not confined its new issue talents to the USM. It has

master-minded four unquoted investments in connection with Kennedy and has a Business Expansion Scheme cash-raising exercise for the Soudan Railway Co. due soon.

Spafax, where 80 per cent of the capital has been placed, offers a 4.2 per cent dividend yield and is selling on 10.7 times earnings, assuming a 35 per cent tax charge.

The company is forecasting profits of £270,000, against £258,000, for the year to end March 1984.

It has made video films - which are used for communicating with staff and for training purposes - for many top companies, including Bass, Hawker Siddeley and Reuters.

Kennedy, the Marlo and Franco and Wheeler's restaurant group, was launched by Hitchens under the special share dealing facility rule in 1980. It then had a handful of private investors and it has been said that the company arrived on the market with little more than a menu and a prayer.

But clever expansion, mostly financed by the issue of Kennedy shares, has made the group a big force in the catering industry. It now has a full quota and is valued at more than £26 million, with its shares at a 27.5p share.

Lorin, placed at 80p a share in April 1983, is now 148p; Fergabrook, placed at 74p, is 148p; and Kennedy Brook, placed at 60p, is 148p.

Crusts, largely the creation of Mr R. A. Sweeney, has eight outlets and is currently in the process of taking over another four, largely through a share issue headed by Hitchens.

Its shares are now traded under the special dealing facility. The last price was 132p. They have risen from about 50p in the past year.

A former Kennedy director, Mr Rory Halesley, is on the Crusts board and controls about 14 per cent of the capital.

Derek Pain

IN BRIEF

CONSOLIDATED GOLD Fields subsidiary: Quarter to Dec 31, compared with quarter to Sept 30. All figs in R000.

KLOOF GOLD MINING: Working profit 115,981 (99,356). Pretax profit 125,468 (108,032). Tax, etc. 65,600 (61,446). Net profit 59,868 (46,586).

VENTERPOST GOLD MINING: Working profit 4,005 (3,023). Pretax profit 3,397 (4,251). Tax 623 (926).

LIBANON GOLD MINING: Working profit 18,448 (14,125). Pretax profit 21,807 (16,706). Tax 9,493 (7,171). Net profit 12,314 (9,535).

DOCKFONTEIN GOLD MINING: Working profit 15,635 (14,764). Pretax profit 18,606 (17,394). Tax 1,481 (1,297).

DEELKRAAL Working profit 10,900 (9,355). Net sundry revenue 2,139 (1,606). Total profit 13,039 (10,961).

VLAKFONTEIN GOLD MINING: Working profit 1,539 (1,218). Pretax profit 2,165 (1,772). Tax 1,225 (986).

DRIEFONTEIN CONSOLIDATED: Working profit 253,565 (230,510). Net mining revenue 254,868 (221,521). Pretax profit 277,904 (243,156). Tax 163,066 (149,177).

NEW ZEALAND: Napier (Reuter) - New Zealand swept to a comfortable 110-run victory over Pakistan in the opening one-day international here on Saturday.

New Zealand, beaten 2-0 in the recent Test series in Pakistan, scored a morale-boosting 277 for 6 off the first ball before claiming Pakistan's first four wickets for 46 runs.

Howarth top-scored for New Zealand, with a battling 68, and Corey and Crowe finished the innings with an unbroken 82-run flourish. Hadlee picked up the wickets of Mudassar Nazar and Qasim Omar and also the man-of-the-match award and Pakistan gave up the chase, to finish on 167 for nine from their 50 overs.

NEW ZEALAND: J.G. Wright c Khalid b Taylor 68; J.P. Reid b Macleod 11; D.S. Smith not out 14; J.D. Crowe c D'Silva b Hadlee 14; V.J. Conroy not out 14; R.J. Hadlee not out 14. Extras 10 (b 5, w 5).

Total (50 overs) 277. B.L. Cairns, E.J. Chatfield and J.G. Brumwell not out. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-162, 3-167, 4-160, 5-160, 6-255.

PAKISTAN: Mudassar Nazar c Smith b Hadlee 46; Qasim Omar c Crowe b Hadlee 14; Corey c Crowe b Hadlee 68; Howarth c Crowe b Hadlee 68; Crowe c Crowe b Hadlee 14; Taylor c Taylor b Hadlee 14. Extras 10 (b 5, w 5).

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CRICKET

Foster shines on a day which has everything

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Madras

It is not often that one can say at the end of the opening day of a Test match anywhere let alone in India, that there was never a dull moment, but it was so here yesterday. India were bowled out in the first innings of the fourth Test for 272 and when the sun went down England, in reply were 32 for no wicket.

The pitch was the key to it, no less than the approach of the two sides. It has pace and occasional bounce, just enough of both to encourage bowlers and batsmen alike. The ball also swung quite a lot. There was one exceptional innings - from Amarnath - as well as some marvellous English fielding, and there were six wickets for the indomitable Foster making his first appearance of the series.

Cowdrey too justified his inclusion by the contribution he made as a third seam bowler. His first 14 overs bowled off the reel, were prodigious in their endeavour.

India batted for much of the time as though no one had told them that this was not a one-day international. At lunch they were 102 or three, having been 45 for three after 12 overs.

There were those who said it was not vintage Test cricket; that in the conditions Hadlee would have done this or Marshall that. But England bowled with a fine spirit and

India started as the mood took them. When Fowler and Robinson went out to face 10 awkward overs before the close they saw them through with resolution, the only scares coming with the last two balls when Sivra twice beat Fowler, it should be a fine match now, yet when England lost the toss, with the pitch looking full of runs I had feared that worst.

Both sides roared straight into action. Gavaskar forced the second ball through the covers off the back foot and Fowler, sprinting after it, turned four into three with an astonishing save. That set the tone of the day. In the second over, bowled by Foster, Gavaskar scored two boundaries, one a magical stroke off his legs, besides surviving an appeal for a catch at the wicket. It was not an entirely confident appeal. In Foster's next over, he was hooked vividly for four by Gavaskar, who then, having survived another close call, this time for leg-before, had his stumps shattered. Gavaskar was across the line of a good length ball. It was Foster's 13th Test wicket, but the first to be bowled.

Off the first ball of the next over Srikkanth, driving at an out-swinging half volley from Cowans, was given out, caught at the wicket. The decision which was a long time coming, surprised the batsman. Vengsarkar was off the mark with a square slash for four off Foster, with a sparkling follow-up for four off Cowans. It was heady stuff, enjoyed by a good crowd in holiday mood. It is a superb modern ground now, circular in shape, spacious and colourful, and yesterday there was a breeze blowing through it.

By the time Vengsarkar was third out, just before morning drinks, he had edged Foster between second and third slip at catching height and played one stroke of such magnificence that the stadium would have been proud of it. But from time to time the ball had been hitting the splice of Vengsarkar's bat, when he was playing back, and Foster now got one to bounce a shade more steeply. It took Vengsarkar by surprise and the catch went straight but quite sharply to Lamb at second slip.

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W Indies v Australia

W Indies v Sri Lanka



Foster: six of the best (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Though still full of incident, the second hour came as a disappointment to England after the rewards of the first. Not for the life of me could I see the sense of giving Edmonds and Pocock seats over Fowler and Cowdrey. The first morning of a Test match in Madras is when every self-respecting fast bowler is wanting to get his hands on the ball. Pocock's three overs cost 23 runs. The batsmen were glad of them, though it was against Cowans that Amarnath made his most dashing strokes, both hooks, one of them high into the cavernous stands. In this second hour Cowdrey came as near as anyone to taking the next wicket, first with an amazing piece of fielding then by bowling the virtually unplayable ball to Azharuddin, pitching on the leg stump and flying high over the off.

Amarnath was so sure that his firm on side push would pass well wide of Cowdrey at short square leg that he set off, all unconcerned, on a run. Within a trice Cowdrey, with a diving save and reverse flick, had missed his batsman's wicket by a hairbreadth, with Amarnath far from home. Bowling as a brisk medium pace Cowdrey beat the bat as much as anyone. What his bowling lacks is discipline, not punch. His length and line may not have been quite tight enough to make the very most of the moment, but my goodness how he tried. His grandfather played at Chepnak, but never his father. They would have played a lot to pleased with in Christopher's wholehearted effort yesterday.

Azharuddin and Amarnath set off after lunch just as they had ended the morning, looking for every chance of runs. Azharuddin improves with every innings he plays and Amarnath was in cracking form. When, in the sixth over of the afternoon, Amarnath hit four successive balls from Edmonds for four runs, England had to hang on. Gower brought back Foster, who despite taking two of the wickets to have fallen, had bowled only seven overs. Almost at once he had Amarnath caught at the wicket, chasing something way outside off stump. Amarnath and

Azharuddin had added 110 for the fourth wicket. Three overs later Cowdrey removed Azharuddin's leg and middle stumps and in the over after that Shastri went much as Amarnath, but by walking these two made the umpires' job easy. There followed the second sizeable partnership of India's innings, one of 74 in even time between Kapil Dev and Kirmani. Happily for India, and the game in general, Kapil is the same jocular and uninhibited batsman he was when last he played for India. They can drop him from the side but they will not subdue him. He is always giving the bowler a thrill and the spectator a thrill.

Like Amarnath, he was playing with dangerous confidence, when he drove Cowdrey to long off, for Cowans, running to his left in the shadow of the stands, to hold an excellent catch. Amarnath hit 14 fours and a six in his 78, Kapil eight fours in his 53.

The last three Indian wickets came in 10 overs, two of them to Foster and one to Cowans. Cowdrey, at square leg, caught a hard hook from Sivra, knocking the ball up at the first attempt and finding it again just in time. Finally Chandra Sharma, not to be left out of the stonemaking, sided an attempted hook to second slip. Kirmani had played faultlessly for two hours and India's runs had come at four an over, in all directions and with every kind of shot.

INDIA: First innings

W Indies: First innings

W Indies: Second innings

W Indies: Third innings

W Indies: Fourth innings

W Indies: Fifth innings

W Indies: Sixth innings

W Indies: Seventh innings

W Indies: Eighth innings

W Indies: Ninth innings

W Indies: Tenth innings

W Indies: Eleventh innings

W Indies: Twelfth innings

W Indies: Thirteenth innings

W Indies: Fourteenth innings

W Indies: Fifteenth innings

W Indies: Sixteenth innings

W Indies: Seventeenth innings

W Indies: Eighteenth innings

W Indies: Nineteenth innings

W Indies: Twentieth innings

Standard Chartered Bank

announces that on and after 11th January 1985 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 9 1/2 % to 10 1/2 % p.a.

The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be increased from 6 1/4 % to 7 1/4 % p.a.

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3 beds, 3 baths, shower,
reception,
central heating, parking area.
available 28th January
£1200 per week.

St James Gardens, W8
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fitted kitchen, central heating, parking area.
available 28th January
£1200 per week.

ESTERSTONS
01-937 7244

bed flat in corruption black
room. Ideal for
man job at machine. 2
prev., Long Co Let. Cooken.

LUE, VALUE £200 priv.
land, longhouse, 2 bed.
Ward to school
and, long/short lets. Cas
tors & Co SR1 2363.

AL, Pretty 2 bed
modern black, class tube
let. Good value £180,
99 6334.

Management Services:
properties in Central
West London great for
£1,221 basic.

FLATS. Silver 1st flrs.
Properties 01-629 0807.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

10 Grosvenor St. W.
GALLERIES, 17 King
SW1, O-450-9242.
Paintings, sculpture,
photography by MICHAEL
in 26 Jan. Distr 10-4.
ENVY, Pootungy O-784
BALL, c. mid 30 March
only left New Adams
correspondence tube and
on sundays.
ENVY, Pootungy SW1
Pootungy, 17 King
St. **WHILLANS JAMES**
Woolwich, Kent
free, weekdays 10-5.30.
Recepted info 10-121.
ALBERT BUCHANAN, M.
10 Grosvenor St. W.,
Unit 10 March, Adam
only 10-5.30. Supo 2.30.
Prints. Recorded info.

10

27

Radio 2

Another World: A programme of
Indian music including Rag Zila
and Thumri. In Rag Panchanana,
Gara, With Ravi Shankar, Alka
Rathia, and Chandrahari!.

11.57
12.00
Closedown.
Medium wave only: 7.30 am
Cricket Test Match: South
England vs India. Until 11.10 am.

Radio 2

On medium wave, also VHF stereo.
News on the hour. Headlines 5.30am,
5.50, 7.30 and 8.30.

10.00 Colin Berry including 5.02
Cricket: 6.10 Ray Moore including 6.02
Cricket: 6.15 Pause for Thought: 6.02,
10.02 Cricket: 10.02 Jimmy Young
including 10.02: 12.02 Cricket: 1.05pm
Sports Desk: David Jacobs: 1.20pm
Humintford including 2.02: 3.02 Sports
Desk: 3.30 Music All The Way (Cliff

Radio 4

[illegible]

CINEMAS

also on page 22

Thatcher prepared to see another interest rate rise

Continued from page 1

support the pound in the foreign exchanges by using the reserves in a massive intervention exercise in the markets.

However, the question of coordinated intervention against the dollar will come up this week when the finance ministers and central bankers of Britain, the United States, Germany, France and Japan meet in Washington at a regular Group of Five gathering, under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund.

American tourists arriving in London yesterday were getting between 83p and 85p for their dollars.

At the Midland Bank at Terminal Three at Heathrow airport the rate for buying dollar notes was 1.1867 to the pound, which made the dollar worth 84.2672p. At Barclays nearby, each dollar bill was worth 83.68p and chequeable dollars gave a rate of 86.95652p.

In the United States hotels were offering only five cents more than a dollar in exchange for the pound, with the highest offering only \$1.10.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, yesterday criticized the Labour Party for not using the Opposition day in the Commons tomorrow to censure the Government over its manage-

ment of the economy, Julian Haviland writes.

At Labour's initiative, the debate will be on unemployment and public investment, and today Mr Neil Kinnock and the Shadow Cabinet will decide the terms of a critical motion designed to appeal to nervous Conservative MPs.

Dr Owen was scornful of Mr Hattersley's proposals, announced in a speech yesterday at Middlesbrough, Teesside, to persuade British overseas investors to repatriate their capital and place it with the National Investment Bank which a Labour government would establish.

These plans, and Mr Kinnock's "cavorting with Castro" of Cuba on Saturday in Nicaragua, were "foolish diversions", on which the Government would seize to deflect attention.

In fact there appeared yesterday to be no chance of Conservative dissidents joining their opponents in the voting lobbies.

Backbench Tories are resigned to a further rise in interest rates in the next few days. But there is universal concern that another upward move, if sustained, will damage recovery.

Kennedy abandons his final rally in Soweto

Continued from page 1

Africa with warm memories of the brave men and women he had met who loved the country deeply, and he pledged to continue with strong and vigorous opposition to the apartheid system. "No member of Congress will fight apartheid more vigorously and effectively," he declared. "I look forward to returning soon to a truly free South Africa."

A distraught and emotional Bishop Tutu told the Senator: "We would have had a tremendous meeting but the system was waiting eagerly to step in as if restoring law and order. 'Don't go away thinking you have been rejected. We love you. God go with you as we work for peace and justice.'"

The Senator was asked what he would have said to Azapo if he had met the organization. He replied that in accepting the invitation to visit South Africa he made it clear he wished to talk to all groups and factions and when his staff heard that

Azapo opposed his visit it was told of his willingness to exchange ideas but that the offer was not taken up.

Earlier, outside the Regina Mundi church, Mr Haroon Patel, Azapo Projects Director, said the organization was not opposed to Senator Kennedy as an individual but to American capitalism.

Before he left, Senator Kennedy was handed a personal letter from Mr P. K. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, in which he wrote: "Your motive was to visit as a forum to obtain publicity for a set of preconceived value judgements. You arrived with your mind made up. You will depart with it made up."

● LUSAKA: Senator Kennedy arrived here yesterday afternoon (Alfred Savisa writes).

The Zambian Government welcomes the Senator's initiative to seek change in South Africa and is treating his visit with all the diplomatic seriousness it deserves.



SEARCH FOR SAFETY:

Weighted down with their few precious belongings, a stream of Cambodian refugees trek into Thailand to escape from Vietnamese forces which overrun the anti-communist guerrilla camp at Ampil. Twenty tanks and a heavy artillery bombardment are reported to have helped the Vietnamese to overwhelm the base, run by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, which finally fell in fierce hand-to-hand fighting last Monday.

Vietnamese guns yesterday began to probe the defensive perimeter around San Ro Changan camp, one of the last Front outposts left in

Cambodia, which had been ignored until now in Hanoi's dry-season offensive along the Thai-Cambodian border (AP reports). The camp commander said all civilians had already been sent to Thailand in the general cross-border exodus, leaving 1,400 Front guerrillas to defend the base. So far they have not replied to the Vietnamese exploratory fire, for fear of pinpointing their own positions, but the Vietnamese were believed to be moving tanks into the area.

The Front's president, On Sann, yesterday toured a refugee evacuation site in Thailand.

Health authorities invest in tobacco

Continued from page 1

Imperial and Grand Metropolitan.

According to the report, about 856 practicing doctors, 721 titled people, 405 members of the clergy and 225 university professors have shares in the Imperial Group, which has annual sales of £2,420 million from its tobacco products including those made by John Player and W.D. & H.O. Wills.

The BMA's secretary, Dr John Harward, said yesterday: "We hope this report will give people who are aware of the exact nature of their investments in these companies the opportunity to take appropriate action."

That need not mean selling their shares, but might mean bringing pressure to bear on shareholders of companies linked to the tobacco industry, he said.

Dr John Dawson, head of the BMA's professional division, spoke of the "incongruity" of the links some health organizations had with tobacco companies. The report will allow people to take responsible decisions about whether they want to continue their investments with companies which profit from the death and illness caused by cigarette smoking," he said.

The BMA is to discuss the report before making a recommendation to those of its members who have tobacco shares, Dr Harward said. He said he was "absolutely certain" that the BMA had held tobacco shares in the past, but had none now.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund said last night that its investment managers had, for the past 20 years or more, been under instruction not to invest in tobacco companies.

Mr Anselm Clarke, the fund's secretary, said: "In our view, the holding in Grand Met is in the hotel sector of the market. This holding was acquired many years ago at a time when Grand Met had no tobacco interests."

"The company's accounts appear to show that the sale of tobacco products represents only a small proportion of group sales, and the company was seen last summer to be trying to dispose of its cigarette interests."

Report on investment in the UK tobacco industry, available from the BMA, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Village voice Spirit of Mahatma in battle for land

In the second of his columns from the Ganges village in the shadow of the Himalayas, VICTOR ZORZA, the distinguished journalist who has settled there to write about the joys and sorrows of Indian village people, relates the story of a raid, a struggle and more trouble to come.

I was afraid. It was well past midnight and there was a man at the tent entrance, holding back the flap and peering inside.

This, I tried to reassure myself, was supposed to be a safe place for a camp, in a jungle clearing adjoining a roadside settlement. Then I recognized my friend the milkman. "There's going to be trouble in the village," he whispered. "Don't come in the morning."

But he wouldn't tell me what trouble. The "secret event" the village had invited me to attend, he said, might end in bloodshed. It won't be the first time. It took me several hours to worm out of him the story of what happened the last time.

The raid, he said, had taken the villagers by surprise. When a huge tractor emerged from the jungle, they were stunned - and by the time they had recovered, the machine, escorted by several dozen policemen, had reached the river bank.

Men and women ran from the village, from the fields, from the jungle, to defend their land, but the police formed a cordon around the tractor. The milkman, one of the last to arrive, pushed his way to the front of the crowd. "You'll have to grind me into the ground," he shouted to the tractor driver, "before I let you take my land."

Several policemen grabbed him, but an officer ordered them to let go. He wanted no trouble, he explained to the villagers. He had his orders, and was bound to carry them out. They had occupied the land illegally, he said. The crops they had sown would be uprooted by the tractor. The land must be returned to its rightful owners.

Let the courts decide to whom it belongs

"You'll have to kill me first," the milkman cried out, and threw himself at the tractor. The villagers pulled him back. "We are the rightful owners," they shouted. "It's village land." They had been cheated out of it by the landlord, they told the officer, but now they had taken it back, had planted rice on it, and would defend it with their lives.

The officer ordered them to stand back, the milkman told me. They pleaded with him: it would be a sin to destroy the food that stood between them and starvation. Let him call off the tractor, and they would promise not to touch a grain of rice until the courts had decided to whom it really belonged.

The District Magistrate has already decided," he informed them. "That's

why I'm here." He ordered the tractor driver to proceed. The tractor, trailing the plough, began uprooting the rice.

Now it was not just the milkman but the whole crowd that rushed towards the tractor - but the police were waiting for them. They hit out at the leading attackers with lathis and the villagers came on regardless.

The milkman told me how first one man was arrested, then several, then a dozen. The tractor went up and down, doing its work. The men went on trying to stop it. The policemen continued making arrests.

Finally the police withdrew, their task unfinished - taking 31 prisoners with them. The milkman thought the village had won, but the older men knew better. "They'll come back," they said, "in much greater force."

The police returned and so did the tractor

The whole village attended the meeting called by the Council of Elders. The younger people wanted to fight the police. The Elders argued that resistance would be useless. They still remembered Mahatma Gandhi's teaching about passive resistance. "Let them take us all to prison," they said.

The police did return, and so did the tractor. This time they arrested 66 villagers - men, women, and even some children who had clung to their mothers. After a week or so the villagers were allowed out on bail and were given a date on which they must appear before the Magistrate: at a time when every hand was needed in the fields.

They went to town, waited all day outside the court - and were told that their turn had not come. It happened again and again, until they were driven to despair. The Council of Elders took a unanimous decision. The village would refuse to obey the summons. "Let them do what they like with us," the Elders said, and the villagers agreed.

Now, the milkman told me, there was to be another confrontation with the police in the morning - but this time no villager was going to surrender. The village was determined to regain its land. If it came to a fight, there was no telling what might happen. I wouldn't be safe, he repeated.

But of course I would be. The police, I told him, would not harm a journalist. He left unconvinced, still begging me to stay away. I stood for the village soon after daylight.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

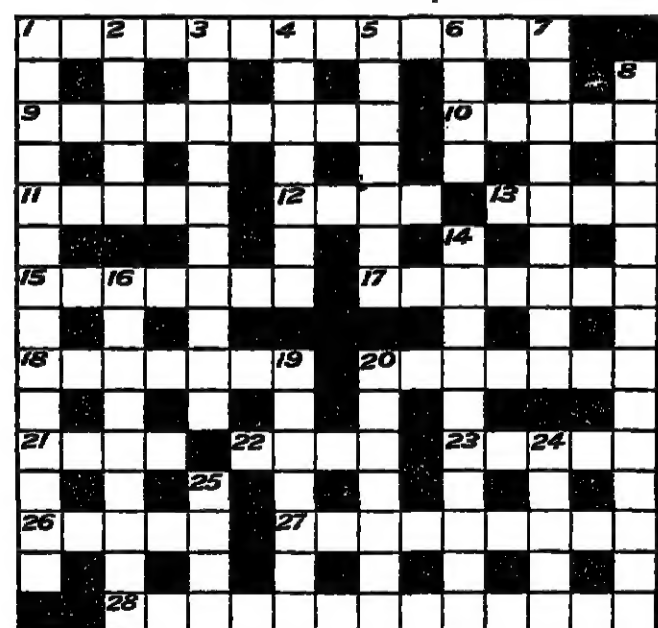
Today's events

Exhibitions in progress

Mine Own Romantic Town: Edinburgh, through the eyes of artists. City Art Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 6 (ends Jan 26).
Christmas Past Seasonal display in the Costume Gallery showing what life was like 100 years ago; by Jeremy Pearson. Royal Albert Memorial & Art Museum, Queen Street, Exeter, Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30. Closed Sun and Mon. (ends Jan 26).

Tuner watercolours: The Vaughan-Bussey National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 31).
Cumbrian Connections: Landscapes by Stan Bowen. Portraits by Jenny Mackness. Paintings and textiles. Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria, Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 24).
William Stuke Murray and Pupils: Pottery by William Stuke Murray. Cleveland Gallery, Victoria Road, Middlesbrough, Tues to Sat 12 to 7 (ends Jan 26).
The British Sporting Art Trust Prints. Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jan 31).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,634



ACROSS

- 1 He speaks on behalf of others (13).
- 9 Island worth 105p? (3,6).
- 10 Stroke fawn (5).
- 11 Slender creature has to keep quiet about returning thickness (5).
- 12 When I get a large piece of land (4).
- 13 Bullet hit hard (4).
- 15 One member learning to conjure (7).
- 17 Used to long months, Edward (7).
- 18 Seeing about a second book (7).
- 20 Where pensioners get buns? (7).
- 21 Look round in the dance (4).
- 22 Help to end the game (4).
- 23 Stool from cook (5).
- 26 Vet, in fear, stopped sleeping (5).
- 27 As the outcome of root-curl, I flag (9).
- 28 Don't decide to rebuke the criminal (3,2,3,5).

DOWN

- 1 Cosmetic used by the Invisible Man? (9,5).
- 2 Post - one we'll find advertised internally (5).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 16,633 will appear next Saturday

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 6

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Trustee Savings Bank Bill, second reading.
Lords (2.30): Administration of Justice Bill, second reading. Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, committee.

The papers

Four years ago it was British exporters who were having nightmares about the value of the pound. The Sunday Telegraph commented: "Today the alarm has switched. It is the ordinary citizen who cringes with dismay as the hitherto unthinkable pound-dollar parity looms imminent." The reality underlying falling sterling values is that credit is too loose for safety. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had made two mistakes: allowing the impression that he is determined to cut interest rates regardless of the state of credit, and that he positively welcomes a sliding pound.

The Sunday Times exhorted ministers, when reviewing budget options, to "go for growth". It said that last Friday's 1 per cent rise in interest rates was a "setback for growth, jobs and the government's economic strategy" and had "dashed hopes of denting the deleterious queues in 1985".

The Observer argues that hurried legislation on surrogate mothers would "compound anxiety rather than relieve it", and says that the difficulty of drawing hard and fast lines for criminal law suggests there may be a case for thinking calmly and coolly about the need to draw them at all.

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Nature notes

Thousands of Bewick's swans have arrived on the east coast: they are smaller than mute swans, and noisier, keeping up a constant musical murmuring. Among the large herds swimming on the sea, family groups often keep close together. Many great black-backed gulls have come inland, mixing in ones or twos with the black-headed and herring gulls.

When the snow is thick on the ground, blackbirds venture out on frozen lakes where seeds have blown: and magpies walk on the ice among the puddles, suffering badly in sustained frost; many go down to the coast. Reed-bunting leave the ditches and hedges, and come into gardens for food.

The loudest singers now are great tits, which divide the year even on very cold mornings if the air is still. Wrens are singing, but in a distinctly subdued way.

Ivy on tree-trunks keeps the countryside green even in heavy snow; dock-leaves and nettles are bright green when a thaw reveals them again. Among battered reeds, bulrush (or great reed) mace still stands eight or ten feet high; the long brown seed-heads, with their spiked top, are just beginning to turn white and fluffy.

Young Engineers

The Engineering Council has launched this year's Young Engineer of the Year competition. Applicants must be aged between 12 and 19 and can apply whether attending school, college, university, polytechnic or are at work in industry. Group entries are qualified. Details from the Engineering Council, Canberra House, Malvern St., London WC2R 3ER.

Times Portfolio rules are as follows:
1. Times Portfolio is a free. Purchase of The Times is not a condition of taking part.
2. Times Portfolio list comprises a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in The Times. The list is divided into four groups of ten shares (1-10, 11-20, 21-30 and 31-40) and every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group.
3. Times Portfolio "dividend" will be the figures in price which represent the column movement in prices (i.e., largest increase or lowest fall) of a combination of eight shares from each group of 10 shares which on any day, comprise The Times Portfolio list.
4. The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced each Saturday in The Times.
5. Times Portfolio list and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Times.
6. If the overall price movement of more than one combination of eight shares is the same, the prize will be equally divided among the combinations holding those combinations of shares.
7. All claims are subject to scrutiny before the end of the year and must be made by the holder of the card or by a member of their immediate family who is not allowed to play Times Portfolio.
8. All participants will be subject to these Rules. All transactions on "how to play" and "how to claim" will be published in The Times or in Times Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these Rules.
9. In any dispute, The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
10. If for any reason The Times Prize Page is not published in the normal way, Times Portfolio will be suspended for that day.
How to play - Daily Dividend
On each day, your unique set of eight numbers will represent commercial and industrial shares as follows:

Monday - Sunday record your daily Portfolio total. These, together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.
If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure, you have won outright, or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim
Telephone The Times Portfolio office on 0254-52727 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, or send your card and winning total to The Times Portfolio Division. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.
You must have your card with you when you telephone.
If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and can The Times Portfolio office.
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Some Times Portfolio cards include minor errors in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

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Roads

Wales and West A31: Between Ferndown and Ringwood at Tricket's Cross Lane, closed of the westbound carriageway due to building of an underpass.

Midlands A36: Contrail in operation between Dudley and Burton, Edgworth, A5: Between Market Harborough and Desborough traffic lights control sharing one lane. A505: Contrail in operation at Woodlands, Northampton.

North A30: Roadworks on Kingsway South and Grange Avenue, Warrington, Lancashire, closed of the westbound carriageway due to building of an underpass.

Edenfield Road, Rochdale, resurfacing between Wingate Street and Woodhouse Lane, closed of the westbound carriageway due to building of an underpass.

Scotland A75: Between Bridge West of Castle Douglas, bridge damage, lights. A900: Lath Walk, between Annandale Street and the River Annand, resurfacing, with reduced A76 London Road between Mount Vernon Avenue, gas pipe installation, lane closures.

Information supplied by AA

Anniversaries

Births: Ignace-Henri Fantin-Latour, painter, Grenoble, France, 1836; Pierre Loti, novelist, Rochefort, France, 1850; Albert Schweitzer, Nobel Peace laureate, 1952, Kaysersberg, France, 1875.
Deaths: Edmund Halley, astronomer, Greenwich, 1742; Jean-Auguste Ingres, painter, Paris, 1867; Lewis Carroll, Guildford, Surrey, 1898; Humphrey Bogart, Hollywood, 1957.

Bond winners

The winner of this week's £100,000 Premium Bond prize with number 9371 422787 lives in Dundee. £50,000: 178N (Gwent). £25,000: 232L 893030 (East Sussex).

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